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Hafa Adai!

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House OKs CW-1 resolution

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» HJR 20-07 adapted to 'ensure growing economy continues'

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a joint resolution that seeks to have the CW-1 program extended past its 2019 expiration. House Joint Resolution 20-07 now heads to the Senate for action.

The House adapted it on a vote of 16-0.

Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), vice speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan), and its author, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), were absent from the House session.

H.J.R. 20-07 supports Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as well as the CNMI

See HOUSE on Page 4

'A lot refuse to understand'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

All resources are being exhausted to educate the public of how serious a drop in the number of foreign workers would affect the CNMI economy and in every person's life yet a lot refuse to understand that the CNMI has an economy because of the businesses and workers that are here.

"People don't understand the veracity of the negative impact," said Marian Aldan-Pierce, a board member of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

See REFUSE on Page 4

Over $38.5M casino BGRT, $16.5M up for appropriation

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Over $38.5 million in casino business gross revenue tax has been collected, but only $16.5 million is available for appropriation because of a recently passed law.

According to a document *Saipan*

See CASINO on Page 4

He's note sought help to bring car back to Garapan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The note that 22-year-old Jilian He allegedly wrote in Chinese before getting on a rented car and driving off Banzai Cliff in Marpi last Saturday morning reportedly contained a plea for help from any Chinese to drive back and return the vehicle to Garapan.

See NOTE on Page 4

ED'S BONITA PARK
Tourists enjoy the scenery and fruits provided by Ed's Bonita Park located on Upper Navy Hill. It is a 45-acre park surrounded by beautiful, luscious green forestry that has been in the Manglona family for over 10 years.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

INSIDE

YOUNGSTYLE
Today's *Saipan Tribune* comes with a YoungStyle section. For kids. By kids.

PAGE 13

ASIA
The United States and South Korea launch their biggest combined air force exercise.

PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
HBO film looks at legendary *Washington Post editor* Bradlee.

PAGE 20

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Local

CUC works to improve its customer service

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho, center, is flanked by the men and women of the CUC customer service department in Dandan.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recently made changes on its customer service in a bid to improve and set standards for the benefit of customers.

According to CUC executive director Gary Camacho, CUC continues to find ways to lessen the burden on their customers and improve service and first on its line of sight is cutting down the wait time.

"There have been long lines in the past but now…the goal is to only have a maximum of a 20-minute wait and people should be out of the door after that time," he said. "We used to have a high number but we have lowered it."

Another improvement is CUC's numbering program. They have also expanded the number of counters, with four more windows.

"I've spoken to our cashier supervisor to follow the demand of the consumer in the lobby. If there are particular solid waste issues, we have the customer service group available to assist people and we also have a dispute section where a supervisor can address the concerns of the customers," Camacho added.

He said the agency has made an effort to give its consumers options and control on how they want their relationship with CUC to be.

"Whether it's a net meter, pre-paid meter, whether they want to pay online, at the banks on island or as walk-in because some customers prefer personal attention, there's a variety of different ways that a consumer can have for an established relationship with their utility."

"There are always challenges with customer service. However, we see and understand the situation. We've done good so far as this is improvement is very recent and we will continue to find ways to ensure customers to get in and out quickly," Camacho added.

Last October, CUC officially launched its Web-Based Electric Prepay Program for residential and government power consumers. It allows customers to benefit from a specialized meter called the Nighthawk electric meter that permits a customer to go online, get access to the customer Web-portal called Pay-Go, and purchase or pay for power before they use it.

Camacho said the Wed-Based Electric Prepay Program is running smoothly.

"We realize that there is some kind of issue with regards to the security deposit, which is $180, but we are continuously working with customers and implement that in a way that they could pay the security deposit in terms such as staggered payment…so that this will become affordable."

"The security deposit is very important as we have an over $400 meter and it's important that when somebody vacate the dwelling, at least we are informed so we can take out the meter so we can provide it to the next," he added.

Although CUC has the utility monopoly in the CNMI, Camacho does not want to rest on that and instead aim to maintain its reputation of providing quality customer service.

"We need to be the utility that people expect. While we are running CUC as a business, we also make sure that we provide good service to the community," Camacho said.

SYP to honor some members

A committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce called the Saipan Young Professionals will be presenting awards to some of its members during its annual Christmas party on Friday.

The nominees for the Rookie of the Year award are Shayne Villanueva (Roil Soil) and Tania David (Bank of Guam).

The Community Leadership Award nominees are Glen Hunter (The Shack), Nicole Babauta (CNMI SBDC), Emanuel Borja (Hofschneider Engineering), and Shayne Villanueva (Roil Soil).

Its most prestigious award is the SYP of the Year Award and this year's nominees are Janel Pangelinan (Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.), and Lester Babauta and Kristal Ann Johnson (CNMI PSS).

The SYP Christmas party, to be held on Dec. 8 from 6pm to 10pm at Kanoa Resort's Latte Stone Room, will benefit the Toys 4 Tots Program.

Tickets are available at $25/person. To purchase a ticket or for more information, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office at (670) 234-7150 or visit Marianas Business Plaza, 3rd Floor, Suite 315. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Man gets 2 years, 2 others get 3 years' prison time

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was sentenced to two years in prison for illegal possession of methamphetamine or "ice." Two others were slapped with a three-year prison term each for the same offense.

John P. Deleon Guerrero was sentenced last week to two years imprisonment, without the possibility of parole or probation, and fined $2,000. His sentence shall be on top of his sentence in a 2016 case.

In the 2016 case, Deleon Guerrero, 41, also known as Masi, pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance. In that case, he was sentenced last September to the maximum of five years imprisonment.

Also sentenced last week were Cheng D. Zhang and Fu Le Li each to three years imprisonment each, without the possibility of parole, and fined $2,000 each.

Zhang, 41, a Chinese national, was given credit for 384 days of time served. Li, 30, also a Chinese national, was given credit for 415 days of time served.

In Deleon Guerrero's case, he just pleaded guilty last February to illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, counsel for the government, had recommended a sentence of five years imprisonment.

Hinds urged the court to consider all the facts surrounding the matter, Deleon Guerrero's long criminal history, the effects of "ice" addiction in the Commonwealth, and the need to send a strong message to the community against drug use.

In 2004, Deleon Guerrero was convicted of assault and battery, and theft in two Superior Court cases.

In July 2006, Deleon Guerrero was convicted of one count of conspiracy to receive and possess stolen mail, and three counts of possession of stolen mail in a federal court case.

On July 27, 2006, Deleon Guerrero was convicted of burglary and theft in two Superior Court cases.

In 2015, Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance in a Superior Court case.

In 2016, Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty to illegal possession of controlled substance in a Superior Court case.

In his latest case, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said that, while she recognizes that drug use and addiction heavily contributed to Deleon Guerrero's criminal behavior, short and lenient sentences have not adequately deterred him from committing crimes.

Kim-Tenorio said that Deleon Guerrero himself shared that he has struggled with his addiction for 20 years—watching how it has damaged his life and deeply affected his family.

In Zhang's case, according to the factual basis of the plea agreement, the defendant was found in possession of "ice" on Saipan on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, 2016.

In Li's case, she was found in possession of "ice" on Oct. 27, 2016.

Zhang and Li were among the four persons arrested in late October 2016 by members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force during a buy-bust operation and a raid at a residence on Navy Hill.

mazda HYUNDAI MITSUBISHI
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2017 ACCENT

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
7H232	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H251	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD ELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H259	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD ELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY SOLD S	$3,000	$15,995
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H272	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLO SOLD S	$3,000	$15,995

2017 VELOSTER

7H220	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD M, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD M, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995

2017 TUCSON

7H262	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP SOLD LOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H268	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-U SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H274	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H278	PEARL, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-U SOLD LLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H309	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H310	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H311	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995
7H312	ORANGE, 4-CYL. ENG., AT, BACK- SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$21,995

MITSUBISHI

2017 OUTLANDER SE

7M037	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSE SOLD WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995

mazda

2018 MAZDA 3

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
8D058	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D059	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD	$4,000	$16,995
8D060	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD	$4,000	$16,995
8D061	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D062	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D063	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$4,000	$16,995
8D023	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD , ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D037	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK- SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D039	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD AM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D040	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$5,000	$17,995
8D027	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD M, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D041	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D042	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$5,000	$17,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995

2017 MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D203	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOLD P	$8,000	$25,995

2018 CX-3 SPORT

8D043	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD , ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D048	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-U SOLD ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

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Suspected 'ice' trafficker arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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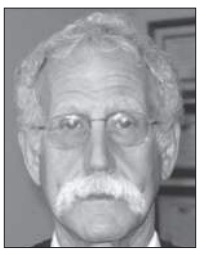
REPORTER

A man who was arrested in May 2015 for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice" was apprehended again last Saturday in Dandan, this time for alleged "ice" trafficking.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officers served an arrest warrant on Ignacio Deleon Guerrero Demapan, also known as Ike, for trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Demapan and set the preliminary hearing for Dec. 11 at 1:30pm.


Govendo

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Demapan. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

CNMI DETF officer Maridel Tudela Camacho stated in her report that they conducted an investigation last Nov. 16 against Demapan after they received information that he is selling "ice" inside his blue car.

That same day, Camacho said, their cooperating source managed to buy $180 worth of "ice" from Demapan in the parking lot of a barbecue stand in As Lito.

The cooperating source was able to buy again $40 worth of "ice" from the defendant during the second transaction in the parking lot of a store in Chalan Kanoa last Nov. 28.

The cooperating source was supposed to buy $180 worth of "ice," but Demapan allegedly stated he only had $40 worth of crystal meth.

In May 2015, police arrested Demapan after he was allegedly found in possession of "ice" in his car in Chalan Kanoa.

The Office of the Public Defender, counsel for Demapan, then questioned the legality of the warrantless search of the defendant's car. There was no available information as of yesterday whether the case is still pending or not in court.

REFUSE

From Page 1

"If you read the comments in the newspapers, one would think, 'Are they really here and looking at what's really happening?' Unfortunately, some think that when we need money, it just automatically pops up," she added.

If the CNMI doesn't have enough people, it will not have an economy, Aldan-Pierce said. "Do we want to go back to the times where you drive by car dealers and see one or two cars and, if you want to buy something, you have to place it on order and then you have to wait?"

"That's an example of the situation here for years. Is that where the people want to go back to? Do we want to go back to the retirees wondering if they are going to get 100 percent of what's due them?" she added.

U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services had announced in November that it is cutting 3,000 from this fiscal year's slots in the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

NMBAC chair Alex Sablan said that aside from social media, physical documents are being disseminated in the CNMI, explaining the purpose of a drive to gather as many signatures as possible in support of rolling back the CW cut and possibly extending the CW program.

The signature drive would be conducted in various businesses and offices starting today, Tuesday, at the Christmas at the Marianas in Susupe from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Sablan

Sablan said NMBAC hopes to get more than 20,000 signatures that they will bring to Washington, D.C. The business community is being tapped as well.

"We've asked friends and organizations though our networks. We have hundreds and thousands now but we could use more. We will have other booths set up in front business stops and anywhere else we can imagine because this is vital."

Sablan will be joined in Washington, D.C. by other NMBAC board members: Aldan-Pierce, Gloria Cavanagh, Velma Palacios, Viola Alepuyo, Perry Inos Jr., and Josephine Mesta.

"We need the public's support and we need the backing of signatures to make sure they understand that there are thousands of people here are at stake—U.S. citizens and foreign national workers alike," Sablan said.

"We are hoping we can get a good percentage of the business community as what we are trying to gauge here is the economic impact this 3,000 headcount reduction on particular businesses. We are hopeful we get a good percentage of businesses on island and we think we do."

"The Chamber has 168 members but it's also 65 percent of the total economy in GDP. Through the Chamber and small businesses that we are trying to reach, we are hopeful we catch the percentage of the overall number," he added.

According to Sablan, the idea behind the signature drive and NMBAC's trip to Washington, D.C. in December is to present the best case.

"We have nothing to do with the actual legislation, only to present it. It is up to our delegate in Congress, our governor who has a relationship with the president, and our effort through our lobbyist to get the Senate to understand the implications of this. That's going to be their job to pass actual legislation to get it to a point wherein we can get it dropped and passed by both Houses and get the signature of the president," he said.

"That was the strategy behind this. The governor would handle the administration, the House will be handled by our delegate, and we needed a group that was going to handle the Senate and so we hired a lobbyist to do that," he added.

Sablan said that they need all the information and tally by Dec. 6.

"We are hopeful that we won't come home empty-handed in a sense that, while we are there, they will be able to see fit to drop a piece of legislation and get it moved on," Sablan said

"Do we think that's going to happen? We don't know. But our end goal is to get a piece of legislation dropped by the end of this year," he added.

HOUSE

From Page 1

private sector in their endeavor to seek an extension on the CNMI-only Transitional Worker Program, or the CW-1 program through a legislative amendment to U.S. Public Law 110-229.

The resolution was introduced after the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced in November that the CW-1 slots for fiscal year 2018 will be reduced by 3,000. Majority of the CNMI foreign labor workforce are under the program.

According to P.L. 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the number of CW-1 slots are to be reduced every fiscal year until the program ends on Dec. 31, 2019.

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., a group of businesses, would be heading to Washington, D.C. to support Torres in his request for an extension.

"Everybody gets affected if [the CW-1 program] does not continue," said NMBAC board chair Alex Sablan. "We are going to try and negotiate a number [of CW-1 slots] to help us continue our economy, which is flourishing."

Sablan pointed out that the CNMI economy's rise is a result of the program.

"In order to continue this momentum, we need to have the workforce," he said, adding that there are three hotels on the way that need a large amount of workers.

H.J.R. 20-07 would be sent to U.S. President Donald J. Trump, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and other key members in the decision-making process.

"…They would know that from [the CNMI legislative standpoint], we are in support of the legislation [amending P.L. 110-229]," Demapan said. "I would also like to personally ask the head of USCIS to please consider and allow us to avail of the CW-1 program."

Torres heads for Washington, D.C. after attending the two-day Western Governors Association meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

NOTE

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune also learned yesterday from QQ Car Rental that He rented the Toyota Yaris sedan on Saturday at 1am. He presented a blurred Chinese driver's license in renting the car.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services described He as a "local Chinese female." Police responded on Saturday at 9:31am to Banzai Cliff after receiving a 911 call about a woman driving a car off the cliff and into the water.

Witnesses and police said that before He drove the car off the cliff, she was seen sitting along the edge of the cliff, getting into the car, throwing a bag and other items outside the car, including the note, and accelerating off the cliff.

Saipan Tribune learned from a source that the note, written in Chinese, states that "If you are Chinese, please help me, will you?"

The note instructs any Chinese to open the car's door as she did not lock it. If she happened to lock the door, then she must have placed the key somewhere near the car.

He also described the wind as too strong and that she was afraid of losing the key.

"Please help me to drive back to Garapan to return it. Thank you," the note stated in Chinese.

Above the Chinese message, a note written in English stated that she had left the car unlocked and that the key was in the vehicle. The note ended, "Thank you so much."

Rescuers recovered He's body from the submerged car, which was found about 300 feet off the cliff, 74 feet below sea level, on Saturday at 3:24pm, DFEMS said.

CASINO

From Page 1

Tribune obtained from the Governor's Office, only $16.5 million would be available for appropriation because $22 million is being set aside in a special account to pay 5 percent of retiree pensions as well as the payment for this year's "bonus to our retirees and the survivors of the retirees, in accordance with Public Law 20-10."

Though significantly less than what was expected, P.L. 20-10 also states that $2 million of the casino license fee each goes to Rota and Tinian, while the remaining $11 million goes to Saipan.

Despite the substantial cut, Torres, in his letter addressed to Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), stated that the amount for fiscal year 2017 "speaks volumes toward the strength of our economy and the viability of our gaming industry."

Enclosed in his letter was a letter from Finance Secretary Larissa Larson as well as Torres' recommendation on how to allocate the funds.

Torres recommended that $2 million be given to the Public School System; however, during yesterday's House session, PSS members requested that the House refrain from taking action on an allocation bill for PSS due to the constitutional mandate that states PSS should receive 25 percent of "general funds."

"We would like [the House] to hold off on any appropriation unless we reach [the constitutional mandate]. That is my message. We need at least 25 percent to operate our schools, pay our Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bills, etc.," said Tim Thornburgh, PSS federal programs officer.

During a recess, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) approached Thornburgh and assured him that House Speaker Demapan would assign the governor's communication to the House Ways and Means Committee to aid in legislating an appropriation bill.

Also included in Torres' recommendation for allocation was $3 million for land compensation obligations; $2 million for the Northern Marianas College; $1 million for public-private job placements and training; $500,000 for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care Development Fund; $500,000 for substance abuse recovery and prevention programs; $850,000 each for Rota and Tinian's telecommunications infrastructure; $500,000 to the Planning and Development Office; $800,000 to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's fixed route transit system; $100,000 to the CNMI Drug Court; $300,000 to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute; $370,000 to the Office of Management and Budget; $144,000 to the Governor's Office; $1 million to CNMI Customs; $350,000 to the Department of Public Safety; $250,000 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s electronic health records system, and $2 million to the CHCC indigent care.

Ex-Labor chief: No basis for OAG motion for clarification

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ex-Labor chief Edith Eleanor DeLeon Guerrero insists the Superior Court should reject the Office of the Attorney General's motion for clarification on Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's interpretation of the terms "vehicle owned" or "leased" since the OAG's request fails to provide a legal basis.

DeLeon Guerrero, through assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, said the court should also deny the OAG's motion as the government lacks standing, as any interpretation of the statute in question will not affect the proceedings in the traffic case filed against her.

In the alternative, DeLeon Guerrero said Camacho should uphold his earlier interpretation of 1CMC Section 7406, which regulates the use of government vehicles.

Nesbit said Camacho's earlier interpretation that a lease agreement must confer rights to the possessor for 12 months or more is the correct interpretation of the Government Vehicle Code.

Last Oct. 1, 2016, DeLeon Guerrero was cited for three violations in her use of a government vehicle. She pleaded not guilty. She said it was a rental car and not government property.

Each of three charges is punishable by a fine of up to $500 and/or three days of imprisonment.

According to court documents, the traffic citation was issued against DeLeon Guerrero on Oct. 16, 2016, at 3:39pm in the parking lot of the Happiness Chinese Restaurant in western Garapan.

DeLeon Guerrero was the driver of a red five-door Toyota car with license plate ACU 788. The car is registered to Marfega Trading Co. Inc.

DeLeon Guerrero's bench trial was supposed to start last June 7, but Camacho vacated it because of the OAG's motion for clarification. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. had cited a prior traffic case against former Education commissioner Dr. Rita Aldan Sablan. In April 2016, Camacho acquitted Sablan of same three charges that were filed against DeLeon Guerrero.

The judge had concluded that the car Sablan was driving was not a "government vehicle" because it was leased for just 15 days, not the 12 months provided under the law.

In Sablan's case, the government appealed, but the CNMI Supreme Court dismissed it and sanctioned the Commonwealth because the appeal was deemed frivolous.

Glass said that in Sablan's case, Camacho defined a vehicle owned or leased according to the definition in 9CMC 1103(e).

Glass said the government believes this is not the correct reading of the statutes, and creates a loophole wherein a government entity can lease a vehicle for 364 days, have the government pay for all of it (gas, insurance, repairs, etc.), but then not qualify it as a "government vehicle" for purposes of enforcing the code, and thereby allow government employees to use this vehicle as a personal vehicle on the government's dime.

In DeLeon Guerrero's response last week to the government's motion for clarification, Nesbit said the government does not present a single rule, statute, or case giving it the legal authority to bring its motion.

Rather, Nesbit said, the government simply asks the court to reinterpret a prior decision. "Under these circumstances, the court is under no obligation to consider the government's motion," Nesbit said.

She said the agreements entered into in this case are rental agreements, not lease agreements, which differ substantially.

Nesbit said the statute in question, 1 CMC Section 7406, applies only to vehicles owned or leased by the government. She said there is no mention of rental vehicles anywhere in the statute.

"Accordingly, the statute does not apply to the facts of this case, so clarification of the court's interpretation of that statute will not affect these proceedings," she said.

Nesbit said that DeLeon Guerrero was not authorized to register the vehicle, get government license plates for it, have any tinting removed, or have a govern-

IN SUIT OVER FAILED UB40 CONCERTS

Claims vs Hawaii resident dismissed

The federal court has dismissed the two claims filed against a former CNMI resident now based in Honolulu by an entertainment company over a failed concert by the reggae and pop bond UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

In an order on Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Steven Brownstein Entertainment's claims of fraud and unjust enrichment against Jason H. Aldan.

The judge found the allegations against Aldan to be insufficiently pleaded, that nowhere in the complaint states that Aldan kept any of the funds that Brownstein transferred to him, or that Aldan profited from the deal.

"Therefore, the unjust enrichment claim fails," she said.

Manglona allowed Brownstein to amend the fraud and the unjust enrichment claims, giving the company until Dec. 13 to do so. Otherwise, Aldan will be dismissed from the case.

Last April, Brownstein sued Aldan and Fredric Holloman and 10 others for allegedly defrauding it of $115,000 by misrepresenting to have the UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Aldan, a former CNMI resident, now lives in Honolulu. He is involved in the entertainment business operating as RawCandyHawaii, according to the lawsuit.

Holloman, a resident of the California, is allegedly engaged in business through an entity known as Shae Entertainment/Management in La Jolla, California.

Brownstein is demanding damages, interest, and court costs.

Aldan sought to have the lawsuit dismissed. His lawyer, Robert T. Torres, pointed out that Brownstein's claim that Aldan used the money for personal purposes along with the other defendants is not only contradicted by his complaint, "it is nothing more than a conclusory allegation."

Brownstein's complaint alleges that Aldan lied about two things: that the $37,000 Brownstein transferred to Aldan's Bank of Hawaii account on July 22, 2015, would be used to secure the appearance of UB40 on Saipan and in Guam; and that Aldan and Holloman allegedly told Brownstein that the "artist deposit" had been made and that UB40 would perform on Saipan and in Guam.

In her order, Manglona said the first allegation is silent as to place nor does it indicate whether the misrepresentation was made in a face-to-face meeting on Saipan or in Hawaii, or by telephone or email or other means.

Manglona said the content of the misrepresentation is given, but the complaint is devoid of any indication that Aldan knew it was false.

The judge said Brownstein does not allege any pecuniary or other motive that would allow the inference that Aldan knew Holloman would misuse the funds.

Manglona said the second of the allegations is clearly insufficiently pleaded. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

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New Marianas images aim to woo Japan divers

Japan media Ocean+a Inc shoots at Tinian Grotto in November for its "Marianas: Diving Paradise" feature to be launched in January 2017. MVA

With a new set of images of iconic scenes on Saipan and Tinian, the Marianas Visitors Authority is teaming up with Ocean+a Inc. to woo more divers from Japan.

The media outlet spent a full week in the Marianas beginning on Nov. 14, 2017, to generate new content for its website that receives about 15,000 unique users each week.

"Of all optional tours taken in the Marianas, right now about 2 percent are diving tours. We can certainly grow this number," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We've already had some great ad exposure this year from our tie-up with Taiwanese underwater photographer, diving instructor, travel journalist and MVA ocean tourism ambassador Yorko Summer and several media [familiarization] tours. In particular, we expect this collaboration with Ocean+a Inc. to remind our long-time dive market in Japan that they can still enjoy fabulous underwater sites in the Marianas, as well as wealth of new experiences above water."

Diving sites to be featured include Managaha, Ice Cream, Eagle Ray City, Grotto, Banzai Cliff, Dump Cove, Two Coral Head, and more. The images will be posted in a "Marianas: Diving Paradise" feature beginning January 2018

Japan media Ocean+a Inc captures a fish ball at LauLau Beach in November 2017, for its "Marianas: Diving Paradise" feature. MVA

Japan media Ocean+a Inc captures lunch at Surf Club Saipan for its "Marianas: Diving Paradise" feature to be launched in January 2018. MVA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Ray S. Masga
Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Acting Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality regulates the importation of the following specific pesticides into the CNMI: any pesticide or pesticide device manufactured in or shipped by or through a foreign country; any termiticide, including those used for crack, crevice, and spot treatment; all general use pesticides (GUPs) used to control pest on fruit and/or vegetable crops or other agricultural products; and any Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) from any country.

In accordance with NMIAC § 65-70-205, BECQ hereby requires any individual or business intending to import these types of pesticides to submit a Notice of Intent to Import Pesticides and Pesticide Devices (NOII) to BECQ for approval. Upon approval of the NOII purchased/ordered can be placed for the pesticides or pesticide devices.

Within 2-3 days before the arrival of the pesticides BECQ requires the importer to submit a Notice of Arrival (NOA) for the pesticide or pesticide devices of the corresponding NOII. The NOA is not to be substituted for the NOII. No pesticide or pesticide device can be imported or released into the CNMI without BECQ's written approval on the NOA. A non-refundable fee shall be submitted with the NOA forms; fifty dollars ($50) for each shipment of RUPs and fifteen dollars ($15) for each shipment of GUPs payable to the CNMI Treasury.

In accordance with NMIAC § 65-70-210 and 220, if pesticides or pesticide devices specified in this section have arrived without a NOII, the shipment shall be detained or denied entry into the CNMI. The consignee/importer shall pay a non-refundable storage fee of $10 per day for each storage container (i.e. 55-gallon drum) for GUPs and $25 per day for each storage container (i.e. 55-gallon drum) for RUPs starting from the date of detainment by BECQ or authorized agents, until the pesticides and or devices are returned or disposed.

For more information please contact BECQ at 664-8500 or 664-8511.

4 Guam students awarded $12,980 in scholarships

MAITE, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine awarded $12,980 Thursday to four Guam recipients of the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* magazine Businesswoman of the Year scholarship.

Three students at the University of Guam and one student at the Guam Community College received scholarship awards in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements.

The four are Amery Jane A. Madeloso, University of Guam; Flori-Anne Dela Cruz, University of Guam; Venisha R. Schunter, University of Guam; and Helen B. Garcia, Guam Community College.

This was on top of the $14,670.75 in scholarship funds awarded to six Saipan recipients at the Northern Marianas College.

Since 2006, the program has awarded a total of $234,325 in scholarships to 122 deserving college students in Guam and on Saipan. Funds for these scholarships are raised through the annual Businesswoman of the Year Gala. This year's gala was held on April 29, 2017. In addition to raising funds for these scholarships, the annual event recognizes women who make a difference in business.

The Businesswoman of the Year program provides funding for student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Marianas: University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. The scholarships are intended to promote higher education through financial assistance for college students pursuing professional careers in business.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on their total number of credit hours for the semester, grade point average, involvement in the community and potential for success in business. All applicants were required to submit a written essay and evidence of financial need. Each of the recipients has a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applications were open to full-time and part-time students of the three educational institutions. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DEQ-002

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 21, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SEDIMENT SAMPLING AT 303(D) LISTED WATERSHED STREAM DISCHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CNMI SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **NOVEMBER 28, 2017** FROM BECQ/DEQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 12, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSAL SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

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Tinian breaks ground for gym renovation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Tinian leadership, along with Fr. Rey Rosal, Tinian resident department heads, and representatives of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and D&A Construction, break ground at the Tinian Gymnasium.

The Tinian Mayor's Office held a groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation of the Tinian Gymnasium last Friday, Dec. 1, at the gymnasium itself.

The event marks the beginning of one of the most extensive repairs to the gym since its construction in the early 1990s.

In his welcoming remarks, Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the gymnasium is "more than just a gym. It is a gathering place for our people, and has been so for more than two decades."

He pointed out that since 1993, the gymnasium has hosted countless sports leagues for youths and adults; sheltered residents affected by natural disasters; served as a venue for community events; and contributed to the overall health of the island.

"I sincerely hope that this renovation inspires our future leaders to continue improving our gymnasium, as well as the many public facilities our residents hold dear," San Nicolas added.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) echoed San Nicolas' sentiments in his closing remarks and reaffirmed the Tinian leadership's commitment to nurturing the community's health and vitality.

Both San Nicolas and Hofschneider acknowledged the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and its board members for making the project possible.

"We are excited to see the gym's renovation come to fruition and for that we are grateful for [NMHC's] commitment in helping sustain the various functions that our gymnasium serves in our community," said Hofschneider.

The renovation project began as a grant proposal submitted to NMHC in early 2016. The Tinian Mayor's Office received $312,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development via the Community Development Block Grant Program, Program Year 2017, to complete this project.

The renovation will be performed by D&A Construction within 180 days. The scope of work includes repairs to the gym's south bathrooms, roof, and stage ceiling; repainting the facility's interior and exterior; and replacing the gym's four main doors, parking lot lights, and fire alarm system fixtures.

The project is expected to be completed by May 30, 2018. ***(PR)***

ESFDB teachers attend PSS professional dev't

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's lay ministry teachers pose with Dr. Clare Camacho, second from left, during one of her professional development trainings at Hopwood Middle School on Saipan.

Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja's lay ministry teachers took advantage of professional development offerings sponsored by the CNMI Public School System to learn about the issues facing their schools and how to address them.

On Nov. 20, the teachers attended two hours of lecture about Renaissance testing at Saipan World Resort, followed by a whole day of professional development training at Hopwood Middle School.

Renaissance Star Reading and Star Math give teachers intuitive reports and at-a-glance data dashboards that track students' path to mastery from the beginning to the end of the school year, and from year-to-year.

"The workshop was designed to help our teachers promote student success and high student achievement in their assessment test," said ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig. "I always believe that professional development is key to address issues at our school and provide innovative ways for our teachers to improve in their classrooms."

Atalig also talked about research that shows effective teachers are key to student achievement and collaboration between parents and teachers creates a holistic view of student growth and performance.

Mary Rose Lucero, 3rd to 8th grade language arts teacher, said, "We believe in supporting our teachers through ongoing professional development. It's important to discuss a wide variety of topics and important issues related to our students and their education."

"I agree with our principal, Mrs. Atalig, that through professional development our teachers can be effective in the classroom," added Lucero. "I enjoyed our professional development with the Public School System teachers."

Edward Maratita Jr., who administers Renaissance Star Reading and Math test, said, "Instead of leaving the workshop with a single lesson, I was armed with knowledge and experience in integrating a selection of strategies to a range of assessments throughout the day."

"The workshop gave me extra guidance to assist our language arts and math teachers set the stage for continuous improvement in important areas of their lessons, and to see which students are meeting benchmarks and who needs intervention," added Maratita.

The teachers were also engaged in hands-on activities.

Joining Lucero and Maratita at the training were Monette Ladao, Florinda Chavez, and Title I specialist Geraldine Dela Cruz. ***(ESFDB)***

NMC Tinian's Cash for College workshop today

Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop that will happen today, Dec. 5, at the NMC Tinian Center.

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 10am and before the end of the workshop at 4pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship, and the CNMI Scholarship, and more.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the spring 2018 semester. This represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 and 2016 1040, copy of 2015 and 2016 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information visit marainas.edu or contact Maria Aguon at 433-0657. ***(NMC)***

Guam base to host 66th Annual Operation Christmas Drop

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The 66th iteration of Operation Christmas Drop is set to take to the Pacific skies on Dec. 11.

The Department of Defense's longest recurring humanitarian mission is a longstanding annual tradition of packaging and delivering food, tools and toys to more than 50 remote islands in the southeastern Pacific, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

During the weeklong international charity effort, Pacific Air Forces airpower ambassadors from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and Yokota Air Base, Japan, will work with their partners of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Royal Australian Air Force to execute low-cost, low-altitude training air drops. The aerial delivery will serve as valuable interoperability training for the partner nations while delivering various donations provided by private donors, charitable organizations and the University of Guam.

This year's event will mark the first time the C-130J Super Hercules will be flown during the operation. The new aircraft model, which is to supplant the C-130H Hercules, will allow aircrews to expedite cargo across an area covering more than 1.8 million square miles.

The rich history of Operation Christmas Drop started in 1952 when locals on the island of Kapingamarangi waved at the aircrew of a passing WB-50 Superfortress, prompting the crew to gather, pack and parachute goods to the islanders.

Nearly seven decades and more than 1 million pounds of charitable goods later, the 2017 missions are set to carry on this tradition of international goodwill.

For more information and news on Operation Christmas Drop, visit http://www.andersen.af.mil/ocd/. ***(PR)***

FHB sets personnel changes on Saipan

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank chairman and chief executive officer Bob Harrison announced yesterday the following personnel changes on Saipan:

Juan Lizama has been appointed vice president, Saipan area manager and Oleai branch manager. He will continue to oversee the operations for both Oleai and Gualo Rai branches as Saipan area manager and will be responsible for the day-to-day customer activities in the Oleai branch. Lizama, who previously served as First Hawaiian Bank's Gualo Rai branch manager, has over 42 years of financial services experience, joining FHB in 2001 and was promoted in 2006 to Saipan area manager.

Lizama

Izuka

Vickie Izuka has been promoted to vice president and Gualo Rai branch manager replacing Juan Lizama. She will be responsible for growing the Gualo Rai branch customer base and supporting the Saipan business banking team. Izuka has over 33 years of banking industry experience in the areas of residential mortgage, real estate and corporate finance and commercial and business banking.

FHB (www.FHB.com) was founded in 1858 as Bishop & Co. and is Hawaii's leading bank today, offering a comprehensive suite of banking services to consumer and commercial customers, including deposit products, lending, wealth management, insurance, private banking and trust services. The bank operates 57 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. FHB, the parent company, is the largest publicly traded company based in Hawaii. ***(PR)***

Join the Annual Christmas Bird Count

This holiday season, birdwatchers and nature lovers have an opportunity to learn more about the Commonwealth's birds and help scientists trying to conserve them. This event is free and open to the public.

On Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, experienced and novice birders alike are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project. Last year, over 73,000 volunteers counted over 56 million birds of 2,636 species across North America, the Pacific Islands, and Caribbean. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has organized local counts for over 25 years, typically tallying thousands of birds and 50-plus species.

Volunteers for the Saipan count will meet at 6am at American Memorial Park to divide into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Teams will spread out to cover the island, finding and recording as many birds and bird species as possible. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't.

For more information, contact Steve Mullin at 664-6011 or email him at smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com, or visit http://www.cnmidfw.com/. ***(PR)***

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About this company
Atkins Kroll Inc. has been established for over 103 years on Guam and 50 years in Saipan. We are members of the Inchcape family, we are a key and valued contributor to the global industry leader. Based in 29 international markets and currently employing around 16,000 people, Inchcape provides motorists, businesses and vehicle manufacturers with a variety of automotive services from import and distribution; brand management and marketing; dealer network appointment and management, retailing, aftersales servicing and financial services.

Inchcape has been a purely automotive Group since 2000 and we pride ourselves on providing a level of customer service that cannot be matched by our competitors. This differentiation is embedded into our Customer focused culture, which is brought to life every day through colleagues in every location across the Group.

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Solutions, not vengeance, is the way forward in 'year of the groper'

The speed of the cultural revolution sweeping through high-profile workplaces is breathtaking: Not only are women's accounts of being harassed, groped or sexually assaulted on the job being taken seriously, consequences are ensuing.

Let's not squander this moment. We must not respond with shrill vengeance but with constructive ideas that ensure the noxious behavior stops once and for all.

Rather than be satisfied to dance around the hot garbage of men toppled from prestigious jobs after sexual misconduct investigations, what actions can each of us take to make sure this movement sticks?

Those are the conversations with the potential to put the #MeToo campaign into the history books.

National columnist Kathleen Parker has ruefully labeled 2017 "the year of the groper," as we've watch an almost daily unfolding of pathetic and revolting behavior as the firewalls of power and money crumble.

NBC fired longtime Today host Matt Lauer for inappropriate sexual behavior on the job. Public radio star Garrison Keillor was canned the same day because of improper conduct while he was responsible for the production of A Prairie Home Companion.

In Congress, Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., faces a growing number of allegations of sexual harassment while Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., was popped Thursday with yet another groping accusation.

Who knows what new names may emerge between now and the time you read this editorial.

Was the catalyst for the "no more silence" culture shift the election of President Donald Trump a month after his crass 2005 brag about grabbing women "by the pussy" went public? Or the recent fall of Harvey Weinstein, one of the entertainment industry's mightiest executives?

Whatever the reason, let's not lose sight of what's important here: Making workplaces safe for all employees, women and men.

While neon-light names have captured the nation's attention, don't forget about the mundane workplaces where similar bad behavior festers: The women waiting tables late into the evening, those up before dawn to begin changing hotel sheets, the ones standing in factory assembly lines.

Everyone at every job site needs to do better. We can all practice "see something, say something."

For those of us who came of age when rules about acceptable behavior were still overtly tilted toward the men, outing old perpetrators likely is of little value. A far more effective strategy is to vow to be a strong mentor on this issue to younger female colleagues.

The many good men who make up our workplaces can do more as well, starting with taking a firm stand against demeaning talk about female co-workers.

Likewise, we can all be mindful of shades of gray. While some cases of inappropriate behavior are clear-cut, many others are complicated and even contradictory.

It's worth a reminder to all who celebrate this #MeToo movement as a tipping point: Accountability falls on each of us to use this moment effectively.

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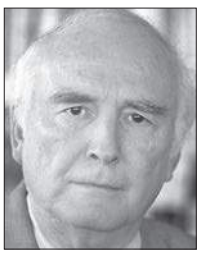
Is there a way out of North Korea dilemma?

By DAN K. THOMASSON
Tribune News Service



Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service *and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at thomassondan@aol.com.*

WASHINGTON—With the current administration, there seems to be a new burning question nearly every week. Some linger and others are beyond answering except when they do so themselves. One of these obviously is how to deal with North Korea's pursuit of atomic weapons parity with other nuclear powers with a White House itself seemingly in personnel chaos with increasing reports of top level staff changes that deal with such questions.

If they are correct, the crucial foreign policy team would shift to those more to Donald Trump's way of thinking and that itself is scary given his threats to Kim Jong Un.

Certainly, more sanctions and other restrictions meted out by the United States and its western allies is not going to bring about any curtailment of Kim's determination to push his nation into the atomic elite with the threat of dire consequences... a possible attack on any major target in the United States including this town. That was made clear with his firing of yet another intercontinental missile –this one something new with a range that makes any site in the United States a target. That is if, as North Korea claims, it has solved reentry and warhead weight problems.

International experts don't believe that is the case, but concede it won't be too long now before it is. At any rate the incident a few days ago when the test missile reached much higher than the International Space Station was enough to increase concerns. America's UN ambassador Nikki Haley issued, echoing her boss, once again warned that the North Korean's would not survive such action.

Strategists, both military and civilian, seem convinced that while this country would sustain a hit or two, the entire infrastructure of North Korea_ military, industrial, economically, and population would be all but eliminated by a U.S. retaliation. Such foolishness would end them entirely, an ex-general friend detailed. But then, he added somberly, we may be dealing with a madman on their side and an irresponsible one on this.

There seems little doubt that Donald Trump's sword rattling, while it might have stimulated Kim's anxiousness over U. S. intentions, wasn't the catalyst for all this. The North's paranoia about defenses South Korea's bolstered by as they are by U.S. forces, including nuclear weapons if necessary, has been constant.

Also, Kim's apparent obsession with exceeding his grandfather and father in power and importance is a factor. He obviously sees equality with the world's nuclear powers as bringing his impoverished nation an undeniable status. He also has seen Iran's nuclear development stunted by U.S. and Israeli pressure and is having none of it—no relegation to that lower status for him.

The overall question of seriousness is one about how far he will take this. Will he continue to test weapons, including the possibility of above ground atomic displays aimed at evermore powerful payloads and to bring about their delivery in more and more sophisticated ICBM's until someone says enough with obvious consequences.

One could only hope that somewhere along the line the North Koreans themselves would rebel against the poverty, starvation and abuse that has been their lot to pay for all this. The other day a North soldier on the DMZ, fled south and was shot several times before he made it and was saved by doctors. His physical shape was deplorable from lack of nutrition and abuse. Although a general rebellion seems the longest of shots considering a populace unable to break the spell under Kim's tight control and constant portrayal of himself as an infallible God backed up by steadfast military and bureaucratic leaders.

Is there a way out of this dilemma? There may be. Despite the potential for disaster, there are efforts at negotiations by some U.S. officials, who remain optimistic that a non-violent solution, even one without the use of atomic weapons, can be reached. But Trump's name calling and brinkmanship makes one nervous. Meanwhile, the latest ICBM demonstration has one again convinced the U. S. military that it must be more alert than ever. It has taken defensive steps including bringing forces around concentrating more resources on missile defense and showing muscle whenever possible through military exercises in the area. But even a conventional land war would stand to take thousands of lives if not more, it is estimated.

The "little rocket man," as "the Donald" calls him, seems hell bent for his own destruction... and a whole lot of the rest of us along the way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diabetes Awareness Month

For those of you who did not know that November was Diabetes Awareness Month in the CNMI, now you are aware.

Diabetes is high glucose in your blood. This means insulin is not being used by the cells because they cannot absorb sugar, which is needed to produce energy. Type 2 diabetes can develop at any age. I have been dealing with this non-communicable disease since 2004. It has been difficult and slow. I have had to change my lifestyle to better live with my diabetes. This change is sometimes very difficult for some of us to do. But change is crucial if we are to survive diabetes. Small steps, like just a 10-minute walk after dinner, can help with your Type 2 diabetes.

The CNMI has some of the highest numbers of diabetes in the world. We also have people who get dialysis and have to sit for four hours as machines clean their blood through a needle in their arm. This lifestyle is difficult to change, but if you don't, it may take you down to the point where you will need others to care for you, or worse, a heart attack.

Three things that you can do to better live with your diabetes are:

One, I like to take the time to enjoy my walks. No rush, stay calm and speed walk. It will keep you strong and happy. I walk with my wife and we enjoy the strolls we have around the island. Also keep changing the location of your walks. It will keep you from getting bored.

Two, exchange notes with friends who have Type 2 diabetes. Also, if possible, join an online community to share all we know about diabetes. The American Diabetes Association is a good one.

Finally, the big one, food! We need to curb our appetites for food. Eat less and eat nutritiously. Eat in a bowl if necessary. No corned beef in a can or processed meat. Try to eat everything as fresh as possible. My favorite is fish. I eat all kinds of seafood and keep each meal as small as possible.

I know Diabetes Awareness Month has passed, but I believe that this is something we can talk about all year long. Thank you for listening, and if you have diabetes, you can beat it. It takes small steps, but eventually, they lead to bigger milestones, which you can celebrate with your family!

For more information & referrals on diabetes, contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or, for TTY & Fax call 235-7278, or visit us online at www.nmpasi.org.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
NMPASI

'Poor service and high rates'

Dear governor, Delegate Kilili and Docomo: I'm sure most citizens appreciate Docomo Pacific for its cable services but I am tired of the poor programing that is being offered. There are entirely too many black-and-white programs from the '50s and too many reruns of old programs for the amount of money that people have to pay for cable TV. Even the movie channels are all reruns and there are virtually no black programs being offered by Docomo in the CNMI, even though there are some black programs offered in Guam. Why are Guam customers getting better programing for the same money? Docomo can do the CNMI better than that!

The people on these islands have always been at a disadvantage when it comes to TV services and it is still the same way almost 75 years later. We are still watching reruns of programs that are 50-plus years old because there is no competition for this market. But technology has changed things and it is now time for the programing to change too! I am humbly and respectfully asking Docomo to find the audacity to change! I want to see some up-to- date TV as we are paying good money just to watch TV! I hope you will respect this plea for you to provide better programing to the CNMI.

The average cable viewer pays about $60 a month, not including the movie channels, and I was informed that Docomo has over 67,000 customers in the CNMI and Guam. We are paying over $48.24 million a year just to watch TV! Yet our programing hasn't changed or improved one bit since MCV had it and in some cases it has declined. Docomo is treating us just like monopolies do—poor service and high rates. The black and white programs that they pay pennies for from the 1950s and '60s, shows like Gun Smoke and Andy Griffin, are over half a century old! If I sound mad, I'm not, just very disappointed that we are being played.

Docomo does deserve some kudos for sports and for their phone services as they are helping to keep phone costs competitive but they need to adopt MCV's theme for cable and live up to it if they want to be "unbeatable"!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

LITERARY NOOK

Collusion Innuendo, A Quixotic Quintet

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Fake News Blues "Lock Up the Media"

The news stories about me are all fake
I know some of them seem quite real
those reporters can go jump in a lake
that's the way most Trumpistas feel
those that actually read printed press
know paper doesn't refuse ink or tears
regardless of numerous Pulitzer prizes
most of those daily rags are a mess
they have become the lying media
totally over the past two or three years
and so on and so forth talk shows blab
reporters cover the WH and Capitol Hill
plenty of former military and lawyers
give me jab after jab in my flabby flab
their guff almost always makes me ill
despite my insulting most of the free press
you of course are free to pick and choose
any old zinger remember Peter Zenger
I'll keep singing the Fake News Blues

Inspired by a poem written in Portuguese called Autopsychography *by poet Fernando Pessoa (1888-1935).*

When Tweets Fail in Jail

When those incessant tweets fail
early in the morning and late at night
and you are afraid of going straight to jail
because your sons have not been too bright
there may be some enlightenment wisdom well
wherever you are going to prison
almost all inmates never will tell
you will soon find out the reason
just sit for a while in your cell
learn to appreciate each passing season
make every incarcerated day well spent
and tweet what it was like to be president
when tweets fail because of a computer crash
just buy another with your ill gotten cash.

Inspired by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda's poem "If Each Day Falls."

Wondering and Wandering Through the Dump

Alone in the morning wearing only a bathrobe
I often walk the dumpy White House halls on
uncharted strolls through closets and corners I probe
free at last thank goodness from presidential duty calls
and I ask who's this bald guy in the oil painting
what's the location of the pasture and cows behind him
I know the nation tires of my raving and ranting
think I'll fly down to Mar A Lago tomorrow for a swim
alone I can do it palpable in my befuddled mind
one hundred years from now historians will see
regardless of those who fell and who got left behind
I ruled the WH, special counsels could not deter me
how long will I be here, will I ever see Lincoln's ghost
I'm not Dolly Madison will I learn to be a gracious host.

Inspired by "Sonnet" *written by Catalan poet Josep Vicenc Foix, 1893-1988*

I Just Can't Ignore the Special Counselor

With fixtures of gold my tower lights up the city sky
its windows look out upon the island and country I rule
I have said believe me I can get away with any lie
about my IQ, Trump University, what I learned in school
the Special Counsel is slowly slowly setting me up
with subpoenas, my staff testifying and now indictments
recording every phrase, every comma, every quip
as the lying media is going gaga with excitement
he's building up a case by the book using no eraser
it may take many months perhaps a few more years
he's doing it straight no chaser, a real slow pacer
when the shoe falls my base will all be in tears
I need lies that I hope will live and use to lie again
before I tweet myself and friends into a US Federal pen.

Inspiration from "Baruch Spinoza," *a sonnet by Argentine poet Jorge Luis Borges, 1899-1986*

To-and-Fro Cabinets Come and Issues Go

Everybody has been complaining since I was elected
about the choices I have made for filling my cabinet
well some are all I could get, some already got rejected
some resigned and some are on the way out you can bet
and its not just the bigly name top cabinet members
some appointments are federal judges who never heard a case
my attorney general is suffering from, "I can't remember"
my Secretary of State has a Russian oil eagle two face
that billionaire education boss DeVoss is a complete mess
she's all for vouchers but doesn't know much else I confess
I got climate deniers and multi millionaires from Wall Street
who can't tell the difference between a legal tort and a tweet
in my first year believe me it has not been easy come easy go
Flynn working Turkey and Russia and hurricanes in Puerto Rico

Title inspiration from Mexican poet Alfonso Reyes (1889-1959)

Swan Song Dessert: Impeachment A La Mode

"…and when no rule, no precedent was found, of men by laws less circumscribed and bound."
—John Dryden (1631-1700)

Should we begin the steps towards impeachment now
before some Congress members short term memories fade
should the President take an ethics and morality vow
as his lack of leadership gets more and more decayed
we voted in primaries for candidates as vote we should
many of our votes were influenced by social media
the Republican dirty tricks campaign was up to no good
in collusion with Russia and oligarchs through Wikipedia
will more of 45's cabinet be called on the carpet and indicted
will the border wall become a simple barbed wire fence
will the issue of 45's more than twelve sex accusers be reignited
would our nation be better off with former broadcaster Pence
can Congress stop Trump's reelection three years hence
will impeachment or resignation bring us someone like Pence

"Oh if the gods would make me rich" you said—gods like a joke, and so they did—"I'd show you all what living's for."
- Marcus Valerius Martialis, A.D. 40 – 104

What Living and the Presidency Is For

It doesn't hurt much to think of him going away
but he made the right decision that had to be faced
What could be better than the Tidal Basin being drained
of those slimy new swamp creatures said their chief
crocodile with a solid gold toothy bling bling smile
Living is for accumulation of wealth and what I can bilk
from my captive nation .The presidency is for life on my
golf courses, taking advantage of money making situations.
for showing whose boss with a government jet for speed
for golden showers, sinks, and toilets whatever I need
above all else epitomizing opportunity cost and greed
on this you can bigly believe me believe me believe me
through my fault through my fault most egregious fault
I care less my millions are safe in a Wall St. bank vault.

Precipitation Cancellation of Golf Vacation

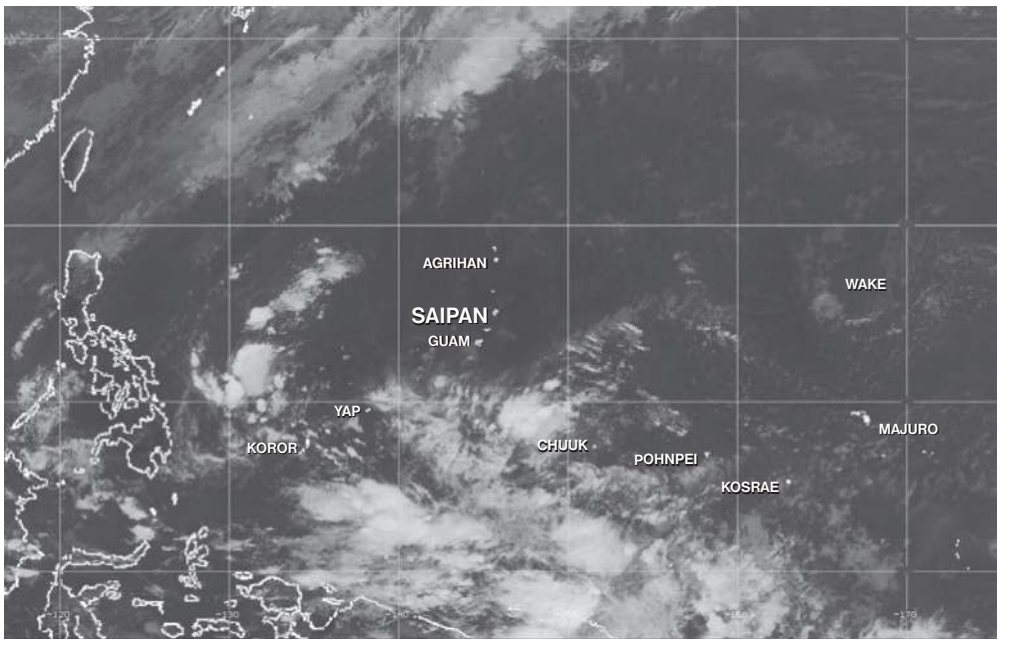
It is four in the morning and its drizzling cold rain
I want to head South tired of tweeting in the dump
and fly into Miami for golf in my Presidential plane
do private checking on dynasty investments of Trump
just back from Asia met up with Rodrigo Duterte
Rody and I refrained from language vulgar and dirty
I took some time to play a little golf in Japan
my new buddy Xi Jin Ping is not a big golfing fan
that Mueller investigation has got me by the 'calls'
calling my family, cabinet, and bigly business contacts
my mistake firing Comey, Muellers got me by the'hauls'
hauling information thousands of papers loaded with facts
oh oh too bad the rains still coming down in sheets
guess I'll hunker down in the dump do more tweets

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An overall benign pattern is now in place across the Marianas. Expect fairly dry conditions to continue through the next week, with partly cloudy skies. Winds will gradually subside over the next couple of days. Latest GFS run shows a disturbance developing to the south-southwest of Guam around Wednesday or Thursday. No other model is indicating any developing systems over the next few days. Therefore, this possibility will be monitored for any sign of development.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Windy	77° / 66°
London	Cloudy	52° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°
New York	Rain	61° / 46°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 37°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°
Seoul	Showers	43° / 27°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 44°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:34 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.70
9:29 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.12
3:03 PM	LOW TIDE	1.09
8:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.10

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:46 am	7:32 pm
Wednesday	-	8:49 am	8:35 pm
Thursday	-	9:48 am	9:37 pm
Friday	-	10:43 am	10:37 pm
Saturday	-	11:33 am	11:34 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

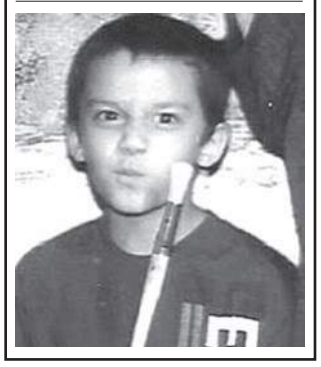
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Interview of the Month with CNMI's first lady

By ALEX MEGINO
TANMS STUDENT, 8TH GRADE.



Q: How do you see your Mission being: A Mother

Give the best of me to my children. I provide a safe, loving and nurturing environment, more than what I had as a child. My husband and I try to give them the experience of what we didn't have when we were young. In addition, we continue to teach them to respect themselves and others and to love their identity, their culture and their language. To protect who they are, will help them in the future.

A first lady:

Never in my life had I imagined I would be CNMI's first lady but here I am. I know one thing and that is, I am where I am so I give it my all. Now how do I give it my all? First of all, I try to support the many organizations and programs that acknowledge me and seek my help, presence, and expertise. I am an educator and will continue to go out into the schools to visit our children. I try my very best to attend events that are happening on our islands, including Tinian and Rota. Alongside supporting everyone, I set some goals and work toward that.

A philanthropist:

This is one of my purposes as first lady and I think the conception of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation is the pathway to everything I am doing and plan on doing. The work that we do at the foundation is to benefit our youth, individuals with special needs and the general public. Of course, I am not able to do it alone. I have good support and the people behind me have been great who volunteered countless hours to work toward our mission. As long as we have the support of our people, our business partners along with the government, the foundation should be running and working toward its mission.

Q: Would you say you have fulfilled your life dreams or there is still something more you have/wish to pursue?

I honestly wish I have the time and energy to pursue a doctorate. Maybe after my time serving the public and my children are grown.

Q: How do you overcome obstacles and what are your inspirations for "moving forward?"

I say always be positive and happy.

Q: What family traditions have you inherited and kept within, and what traditions of your own have you started/ imposed?

I come from a family of nine children. We are always very loving and caring of each other. My parents and my in-laws bestow peace among siblings and this is one that I wish will live on in my children and generations to come. Gathering and making time for each other is one that matters.

Q: If you would write a letter to Santa Claus what would you ask for yourself, your family, residents of Saipan, and to the people of the world?

I just wish for world peace, safety and love for all.

And just a few questions for your children, please:

Q: How would Ralph Anthony, Vaniqa Marie, Deon Titus, Tristan Dane and Divannie like to help their parents at home and beyond?

The girls help mommy with grocery shopping, laundry and maintaining our beds. As far as the boys, they help with setting the table for lunch or dinner. They help their dad at the farm as well.

Q:What are Ralph Anthony's, Vaniqa Marie's, Deon Titus's, Tristan Dane's and Divannie's favorite things to do/hobbies?

My children love the outdoors. Swimming being top on the list. They love riding their bikes and skating.

Q: What superpowers would they love to have and why?

My daughter Vaniqa want to be invisible because she thinks it's cool.

MY COOL HOBBY

By HERBIT VILLAGOMEZ
10 YEARS OLD, 5TH GRADE

My cool hobby is spear fishing. Why do I love spear fishing? It is because I love catching big fish. I also love it because I started diving when I was about 8 or 9 years old. My dad trained me when he would go diving for a 7-lb Lililuk Fish. He asked me back then if I wanted to get down from our boat, so I did and I saw the beautiful reef with plenty of fishes. From then on my dad taught me how to use a spear and how to fire it. Now I love spear fishing even more because I know how to use a spear and shoot fishes. I also follow my dad every now and then to go spearfishing. In the future I hope when I get older, my future kids will like spear fishing like me.

MY COOL HOBBY

By: MARY GRACE KYM LEGASPI
10 YEARS OLD, 5TH GRADE

My hobby is playing the piano. A while back, my mom's friend invited us to take a glimpse into Li'l Hands. That afternoon, my mom decided to sign me up. I joined in July 2015. Until now, I love to play the piano. I also have two keyboards at home.

When I practice songs, it may not be in recitals. My favorite song to play is "Be Our Guest" from Beauty and The Beast. Some of the songs I play in practice are: Auld Lang Syne (A New-Year Special) and Turkish March (Traditional Song). My lessons are every Saturdays and Sundays, from 2:15 to 2:45 on Saturdays and 2:00 to 2: 45 on Sundays. I practice for 20 or 30 minutes on weekends.

I have been in multiple recitals: Liberation 2017, WSR's Family Fun Night, Saipan World Resort Taga Hall, and Multipurpose Center. I am currently in level 3 in piano.

For my first recital, I was playing "Colors of The Wind" from Pocahontas as my solo, and "Let It Go" from Frozen for my duet with an older boy.

I have since forgotten stage fright during the Mothers' Day recital in 2016. All my mom's closest friends were there with her in the audience. I like Beethoven, classical music like Fur Elise and Serenade by Joseph Franz. All thanks to Mrs. Joyce, the Li'l Hands Company and especially my parents.

Thank You!

WSR Elementary School principal

By: NICOLETTE MARTIN
9 YEARS OLD, 5TH GRADE

Ms. Naomi Nishmura is William S. Reyes Elemental School's principal. She has been at WSR for 17 years and said she still enjoys coming to work each day.

Before becoming Principal Ms. Nishmura taught third grade, kindergarten and then was a reading resource teacher. When given the challenge of becoming Vice Principal she accepted it. She wanted to make the change because she thought she could make a bigger impact on the school. Years later when she was recommended for Principal she accepted because she felt it was a greater challenge for her. She LOVES her job and its success in leading the school in the most positive ways possible.

In order for Ms. Nishmura to become WSR's Principal she had to earn a Bachelor of Aats degree in Education and then went on to earn her Master's degree in Education.

The job of a Principal is very demanding, it's not easy. The Principal is responsible for everything that happens concerning the school.

About My School

By: KATE CABALBAG
9 YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADE, 237-3541

This essay is about William S. Reyes Elementary School, where I'm currently studying. It was founded in 1946 by William S. Reyes. W.S.R. used to be called "Chalan Kanoa Elementary School". WSR is the biggest elementary school on Saipan. This school is fun but educational; it can also be both sometimes. It is not a private school. To the people who don't attend this school, I am Kate and I will be telling you about WSR.

To start, I will be telling you about some of the activities we play. We can play soccer in our field that is located in the middle of our school. We can also play basketball in our basketball court which is located at the back of our school. After school activities include healthy lifestyles, volleyball, and softball. Now I will tell you about our schedule. Our school starts at 7:40 am. At 9: 40 we go out for recess. We have two breaks in total; first is at 9:40 am and second is at 12:40 pm, if we eat lunch early. Then we go home at 2:40pm.

Now that you know what some things we can play are and what our schedule is, I think you need to know our rules and principal. Our principal is Ms. Naomi Nishimura. She has been our principal for the past seven years. She is nice and knows all the staff members, and the Student Council. Our new Vice Principal is Ms. Jocelyn Manibusan. Our rules are no bullying, no kicking, no punching, and not going out of the campus unless it's after school. One of the most important rule is never trust strangers. In my school, safety is the most important thing aside from education. Never take a stranger's candy because it might be poisoned or some form of trick to kidnap kids in the school. Finally, you should always be a peace builder. In my school, education is also important because that's what school is all about. I hope you like learning about my school and its features, because this is the end of my essay.

All About My Family

By LARAINE DIYCO
10 YEARS OLD, 5TH GRADE

Hi, my name is Laraine G. Diyco; I have five members in my family (including me). My dad is an accountant and his from Pampanga in the Philippines. My mom is a waitress in a Korean restaurant, she is also from the Philippines in the Visayas region. My oldest brother graduated from high school and is currently in Texas, studying in college and also in the Air Force training. The second oldest brother is still in high school and will graduate this year or next year. Currently, he works at Gold's Gym and plans to join the Marines. He is also in a basketball team. I'm the third child. I attend school at William S. Reyes Elementary School. I am currently in the 5th grade getting ready for middle school next year.

Home life is fun. Now we have dog, which stays inside, that is half Maltese and half Shih Tzu. She is adorable and her name is Kawaii, which means cute in Japanese. We got her last year. Since then she has brought a lot of happiness into our home.

An event that we do as a whole family is joining the Color Fun Run every year. It is one of my favorite things to do because we get to do it as a whole family. I always look forward to it. There are other things that we as family also do, but I think the fun run is my favorite.

Greek Mythology

By MARK COSTALES
9 YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADE, 237-3541

I love everything about Greek Mythology! First, let me share with you about the three major gods. The three major gods of Olympus are Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon.They overthrew their father, Kronos, an evil titan. They decided Zeus would be the King of Gods which led to the splitting of their kingdom. Zeus is the god of the sky and lightning. His kingdom is at Olympus. Hades is the god of the dead and rules the underworld. Poseidon is the god of water and Earth. He is also known as the Earth shaker, the stormbringer, and the father of horses. He rules the ocean.

The other aspect of Greek Mythology that I would like to share with you are the beliefs and traditions. One of the traditions is that they create stories to teach people life lessons and meaningful things. Another example of Greek tradition is if you pray to a god, you will be rewarded. For example, if you are a fisherman and you pray to the sea God, Poseidon, you might get a favorable catch. Another thing about Greeks beliefs how someone might catch an evil eye. You can catch an evil eye by being jealous and envious of someone. To avoid it, you must wear a blue little marble bracelet or necklace. Blue is like the color of protection. Lastly, the eldest child has to be named by a grandparent, so it ensures the continuation of family name. These are some of the reasons why I am interested in Greek mythology.

About My Teacher
Mrs. Rebecca Flores

By **LHOUANNE SISON**
9 YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADE, 237-3541

Mrs. Rebecca Flores is one of our schools Counselor at William S. Reyes Elementary School. She has been with the Kingfisher family since 1990. She taught for 11 years the following grades: 6th, 5th, and 4th. Then she decided to go into counseling and has been a counselor the past 16 years.

During her education career she has been recognized three times for her hard and dedicated work. The first one was in 1995-1996 she received WSR Teacher of the Year. Then in 2005 to 2006 she received WHO'S WHO AMAZING AMERICA'S TEACHER and the third one was the overall CNMI Counselor of the year in 2010 to 2011.

Her mission in life is to make a difference and to help others anyway she can. The student's here at WSR are very lucky to have her. They feel very comfortable and trust her with any situation they encounter. She makes a difference in the life of the students and even the staff here on campus.

I remember when she dressed up in a custom as wonder woman to celebrate WSR Counselor of the year. Well I truly believe she really is WSR wonder woman because she always saves the day here on campus. We are blessed to have her!

About My Teacher
Mrs. Jocelyn Manibusan-Tudela

By **SHELINA BELTRAN**
YEARS OLD, 4TH GRADE, 237-3541

Mrs. Jocelyn Manibusan-Tudela started her employment at William S. Reyes Elementary school in 2000. During her first year she taught first grade. Since then she has served in a variety of PSS schools at the elementary level, middle school level and also high school lever. She has worn so many different hats such as: a class room teacher, counselor and vice principal.

We are very lucky to have her as our Vice Principal this school year. I asked her what were some positives, disadvantages and challenges she faces being a Vice Principal. Her reply was that one of the positives is trying to make the school a better place for students, teachers and staff. A place where students want to come to school every day, have fun learning and be safe. One disadvantage is not having a summer break as a vice principal, she works the entire year with or without students on campus. Mrs. Jocelyn said the challenges are dealing with the unknowns that come up frequently and solving the problems. In order for Mrs. Jocelyn to become a vice principal she had to graduate high school, graduate college with a Bachelor Degree and then further her education to receive a Master's Degree.

The reason Mrs. Jocelyn wanted to be a vice principal was because she wanted to have a larger impact on student's achievement, being able to work with other teachers, school leaders and the community to create a better learning environment for students and staff here at WSR. We are blessed to have Mrs. Jocelyn as our Vice Principal.

"the little star"

Model: Joy Sizemore,
Ballet Student of Ms. Anna Glushko/ Glushko's Ballet Academy.
Presently a Student at Houston Ballet Academy.

The cover girl
The fairy of the
play
In a beautiful tutu
My heart you sway

You are the star
The idol
You are the dream
You are the front
page beauty
In Pointe Magazine

But only few do
know
How hard
Was your way to
fame
The Little star...

- E.M.

Public invited to watch musical shows

Students of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Tanapag Middle School are inviting the community to watch two musical show productions that they organized.

GTC and TanMS students will be presenting their adaptation of the timeless classics *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet* on Dec. 22 at the Aqua Resort Club.

Advanced reservation of tickets is required with date and time subject to change.

Tickets cost $5 for child and $10 for adults.

For more information, call 9899610 or email funzone670@gmail.com.

THANK YOU

The *Saipan Tribune*'s YoungStyle section is published with the assistance of the following:

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Business

McConnell: No govt shutdown this week over immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Testing the resolve of Democrats, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared Sunday there won't be a government shutdown this week over the question of protecting immigrants brought to the country illegally as children, describing it as a "non-emergency" to be addressed next year.

"There's not going to be a government shutdown. It's just not going to happen," said McConnell, R-Ky.

House GOP leaders unveiled a short-term plan over the weekend to avert a shutdown and keep the government open through Dec. 22. The measure would buy time for bipartisan talks on a bigger budget agreement that would give the Pentagon and government agencies significant relief from a pending budget freeze.

McConnell

Congress faces a Friday deadline to fund the government through the end of next September.

Democrats and a few Republicans have suggested they may not vote for government funding without the protections for tens of thousands of young immigrants, known as "Dreamers," who are currently protected by an Obama administration program. That program is set to expire in March.

Meanwhile, some Republicans are divided over what programs the government should pay for, and how much.

GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida has joined Democrats on the immigration issue, while Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said he received commitments from party leaders and the administration to work with him on restoring "Dreamer" protections in exchange for his vote early Saturday on the tax overhaul bill.

President Donald Trump backs the immigration safeguards despite issuing an executive order reversing the Obama-era protections, officially called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

Trouble in the family business

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: My sister and I work with our mother and father in a successful family business. Although outsiders view us as an exemplary professional family, the reality is that we are in constant conflict. Sis and I often disagree with our parents, and we have a strong sibling rivalry which produces frequent arguments.

I'm sure that many business families experience these issues, but I don't know how to resolve them. If we could learn to listen and respect each other, perhaps we could figure out how to work together. My sister stubbornly denies that we have problems, but the tension is driving me crazy. How can we fix this?

A: "Family business" borders on being an oxymoron, so you are correct in assuming that others have similar difficulties. However, that doesn't make your own problem any less painful.

The basic problem is that families lack the constraints and boundaries that exist in a normal workplace. Instead of moderating their behavior to conform to professional norms, relatives often fight and argue as they would at home. Decision-making becomes an agonizing process, especially if roles and responsibilities are poorly defined.

Because your company is successful, the family has obviously done many things right. However, the current level of dissension does not bode well for the future. Studies have found that only 30 percent of family businesses transition to the next generation, and uncontrolled conflict further reduces those odds.

To turn this around, everyone must first agree to grow up and start acting like mature adults. Ground rules should be established for communication, conflict resolution and collaborative decision-making. Some companies drop family titles (mom, dad, sis, etc.) and use only first names at work.

In many family enterprises, no one has ever worked anywhere else, resulting in a general lack of management knowledge. Fortunately, this deficit can be remedied with books, workshops, online resources, or mentoring organizations. SCORE, a nonprofit group affiliated with the U.S. Small Business Administration, is an excellent source of information and advice.

A shared understanding of sound management practices can help to remove family dynamics from business discussions. For topics that push everyone's hot buttons, hire an experienced facilitator to guide the conversation. But if the bickering continues unabated, a family therapist might be the ultimate solution.

Q: Our boss is easily influenced by a very assertive co-worker. Whenever "Gwen" offers an opinion, he automatically goes along. Recently, an employee who resigned sent a complaint about our boss' management style to human resources. Now Gwen is telling everyone to go to HR and support him. No one wants to do this, but we don't know how to refuse. What should we do?

A: Sounds like you and your colleagues have something in common with your wimpy manager. Apparently, all of you are afraid to stand up to Gwen. However, you can easily reject her current demand with a short, direct response.

For example: "Gwen, you are more than welcome to go to HR yourself, but the rest of us prefer not to get involved." If Gwen pushes the issue, politely end the conversation by saying that you must get back to work. And if she brings it up again, simply repeat this process.

Nation

Trump lashes out at own FBI in a series of tweets

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump launched a fresh attack Sunday on the credibility of his own FBI, responding to revelations that an FBI agent was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's team investigating Russian election meddling because of anti-Trump text messages.

Trump, two days after his former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI, again denied that he directed FBI Director James Comey to stop investigating Flynn.

The Republican president offered a running Twitter commentary Sunday amid renewed focus on Mueller's probe and Flynn's decision to cooperate with the investigation as part of his plea agreement. Democrats said the developments suggested growing evidence of coordination between Trump's circle and Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the panel is beginning to see "the putting together of a case of obstruction of justice" against Trump.

"I think we see this in indictments ... and some of the comments that are being made. I see this in the hyper-frenetic attitude of the White House, the comments every day, the continual tweets," Feinstein said. "And I see it most importantly in what happened with the firing of Director Comey, and it is my belief that that is directly because he did not agree to lift the cloud of the Russia investigation. That's obstruction of justice."

In a series of tweets, Trump questioned the direction of the federal law enforcement agency and wrote that after Comey, whom Trump fired in May, the FBI's reputation is "in Tatters — worst in History!" He vowed to "bring it back to greatness." The president also retweeted a post saying new FBI Director Chris Wray "needs to clean house."

The president seized on reports that a veteran FBI counterintelligence agent was removed from Mueller's team last summer after the discovery of an exchange of text messages that were viewed as potentially anti-Trump. The agent, Peter

Michael Flynn

Flynn is a retired Army lieutenant general who served as the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the director of national intelligence, and various other posts within the military and intelligence community.

Flynn timeline

- **Nov.18, 2016:** Trump names Michael Flynn as the next U.S. national security adviser.
- **Dec. 29, 2016:** President Barack Obama announces sanctions expelling 35 Russian diplomats for the country's alleged interference in the U.S. presidential elections.
- **Dec. 29, 2016:** A U.S. official tells The Associated Press that Flynn is in frequent contact with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.
- **Jan. 22:** The Wall Street Journal reports Flynn is under investigation by U.S. counterintelligence.
- **Feb. 8:** Flynn, in an interview with the Washington Post, categorically denies discussing sanctions with Kislyak.
- **Feb. 11-12:** Trump is silent about Flynn and the latest allegations during a weekend trip to Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida resort.
- **Feb. 13:** White House officials send contradictory messages about Flynn's job status. Senior aide Kellyanne Conway remarks that Trump has "full confidence," Sean Spicer says the president was "evaluating the situation."
- **Feb. 13:** Michael Flynn resigns. In a resignation letter, Flynn said he gave Pence and others "incomplete information" about his calls with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.
- **Dec. 1:** Former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleads guilty to making false statements to the FBI.

Source: AP, BBC, ABACAPRESS.COM
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Utah's tenacious efforts to take back federal land stand out

DENVER (AP)—In an American West that has a love-hate relationship with the federal government's ownership of a checkerboard of parks, monuments, forest and desert in states from Washington to New Mexico, Utah stands out.

The state has gone well beyond any other in the region in trying to pry the federal government's hands off land it sees as belonging to its residents.

In 2012, its Legislature passed a law demanding the federal government give 30 million acres (121,000 square kilometers) of the land it owns in Utah to the state government—a measure other Western states have balked at replicating, even deeply conservative ones like Idaho.

Earlier this year, a Utah congressman introduced a bill to sell more than 4,600 square miles (11,900 square kilometers) of Western federal land to private entities but pulled it after a backlash. And on Monday, President Donald Trump is expected to announce he's significantly reducing the size of two national monuments in southern Utah, the first such act by a president in half a century.

"Utah's certainly on the tip of the spear," said state Rep. Mike Noel, who represents south-central Utah, where some residents have fought to shrink or eliminate Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument since President Bill Clinton created it in 1996.

Polls have repeatedly shown Westerners cherish national monuments and other protected federal land—even in Utah—but the state's political leaders have been united in celebrating Trump's expected move.

The president's decision has already sparked protests. On Saturday, thousands of demonstrators holding signs with messages like "Protect Wild Utah" converged on the steps of the Utah State Capitol.

The president is considering changes to other Western monuments as well, as recommended by his interior secretary, Ryan Zinke. But no state has been agitating for reductions like Utah. In a telling move, at the same time Zinke recommended the Utah shrinkage, he urged the creation of a new national monument in his conservative home state of Montana,

Asia

A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor takes off from a South Korean air base in Gwangju, South Korea, Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. AP

Stealth jets, other aircraft fly in US, S. Korean drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Hundreds of aircrafts including two dozen stealth jets began training Monday as the United States and South Korea launched their biggest-ever combined air force exercise. The war games come a week after North Korea test-fired its most powerful missile ever, an ICBM that may be able to target the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The five-day drill, which is called Vigilant Ace, is meant to improve the allies wartime capabilities, South Korea's defense ministry said.

The U.S. Seventh Air Force sent major strategic military assets that include six F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighter jets for the annual training exercise in the Korean Peninsula. About 12,000 U.S. military personnel are participating.

Some local media report that B-1B bombers will also join aerial drills, but officials could not confirm the reports.

North Korea's state media said the joint drill pushes the Korean Peninsula "to the brink of nuclear war." Such language is typical in North Korean propaganda because the country sees U.S.-South Korean drills, which are held regularly, as preparation for invasion.

Still, always bad tensions are at a particularly dangerous point as North Korea edges toward its goal of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped long-range missiles, and President Donald Trump uses aggressive rhetoric toward the North, threatening, for instance, "fire and fury" toward the country.

Pyongyang will "seriously consider" countermeasures against the drill, and the U.S. and South Korea will "pay dearly for their provocations," the Korean Central News Agency said on Sunday before the start of the exercises.

While many South Koreans typically ignore North Korea's rhetoric, some senior American officials have expressed worry following the ICBM test, North Korea's third.

On Sunday, Lindsey Graham, a U.S. senator from the state of South Carolina, said he believes that it's time for U.S. military families in South Korea to leave the country because conflict with North Korea is getting close. The U.S. government has not announced a formal decision to evacuate U.S. citizens from South Korea, and there were no such signs in the diplomatic community in Seoul. An evacuation of dependents by Seoul's closest ally and major military defender could prompt a panicked reaction by other countries, and among South Koreans.

In addition to American diplomats and other embassy workers, about 28,500 U.S. troops operate in South Korea, and many come to their posts with their families, who often live on huge, well-guarded military bases.

Also on Sunday, the White House national security adviser said that Trump will take care of North Korean threats by "doing more ourselves."

"The priorities that the president's given us to move as quickly as we can to resolve this crisis with North Korea," General H.R. McMaster told Fox News in an interview.

"If necessary, the president and the United States will have to take care of it, because he has said he's not going to allow this murderous, rogue regime to threaten the United States."

ASIA BRIEFS

13 dead, 2 missing after boat capsizes in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—At least 13 people were dead and two missing on Sunday after a South Korean fishing boat collided with a refueling vessel and capsized, the coast guard said. An official from the Korea Coast Guard said seven people were rescued and the two missing included the boat's captain. He said 22 people were aboard the 9.8-ton fishing boat that capsized after colliding with the 336-ton refueling vessel in waters off the port city of Incheon. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. The refueling vessel did not suffer damage.

Afghan official: Suicide bomber on motorbike kills 6 people

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber riding on a motorcycle struck Sunday outside a soccer stadium in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least six people and wounding 13, an Afghan official said. Among those killed in the attack in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, were a woman and a small child, according to Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor. Khogyani said the attack took place shortly after a pro-government rally ended at the soccer stadium. The rally had been packed with supporters of the government of President Ashraf Ghani.

Bali volcano emits wispy plume of steam, flights resume

KARANGASEM, Indonesia (AP)—Gushing ash from Bali's Mount Agung volcano has dissipated into a wispy plume of steam, and Australian airlines that canceled some flights to the Indonesian resort island on the weekend have returned to near-normal schedules. Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency said Monday the volcano remains at its highest alert level but most of Bali is safe for tourists. The exclusion zone around the volcano still extends 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the crater in some directions. More than 55,000 people are living in shelters. Airlines Jetstar and Virgin Australia, which canceled flights over the weekend even as the ash cloud shrank dramatically, said they were resuming services Monday.

World

AMID SANAA STREET CLASHES

Yemen's rebel alliance unravels

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Snipers took over rooftops in residential areas, tanks deployed and militiamen set up checkpoints Sunday across the Yemeni capital, where fighting forced families to hunker down indoors in anticipation of more violence.

Five days of bombings and heavy gunfire have underscored the unraveling of the already fragile alliance between Yemen's strongman and former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Shiite rebels known as Houthis. The two sides joined ranks three years ago and swept across the capital, Sanaa, forcing the country's internationally recognized president to flee the country and seek military intervention led by Saudi Arabia.

After months of political and military stalemate, the street battles between Saleh's forces and the Houthi militiamen have marked a turning point in the conflict. The two sides had been enemies before the six-year-war that began in 2004 when Saleh was a president. Their alliance, in the eyes of many Yemenis, was doomed to fail given their stark differences.

The Iran-backed rebels perceive themselves as a religious awakening movement, while Saleh is a pragmatic politician, shifting political alliances, buying tribal loyalties and exploiting Yemen's power fault lines throughout his three-decades in power before he was ousted after the country's Arab Spring uprising in 2011.

Over the past 48 hours, in a series of surprise announcements, all of Yemen's political players spoke about turning a new page and unifying against the Houthis—a new alliance that appeared to have been in the making for some time as the Shiite rebels have accused Saleh of working against them.

The Houthis, who descended from their northern enclave and seized Yemen's capital in 2014 with the help of Saleh's forces, are now becoming isolated in the face of popular anger.

Pictures of angry Yemenis tearing down posters of the Houthi leader, Abdul-Malik a-Houthi, in Sanaa flooded social media as street fighting there appeared to split the capital in two, with northern areas under Houthi control and southern ones under Saleh's fighters.

Clashes between fighters loyal to Saleh and the Houthis first erupted last week when Saleh accused the rebels of storming his giant mosque in Sanaa and attacking his nephew, the powerful commander of the special forces, Tarek Saleh.

Both sides have set up checkpoints, placed snipers on rooftops and sealed off entrances to the city. Bombings and sporadic gunfire rocked the southern part of Sanaa on Sunday, where Houthi militants stormed Saleh's Yemen Today TV network, beat up its director, and held over 40 journalists and crew members inside the building, Yemen's Press Syndicate said.

Many state institutions—including the airport, state TV headquarters and the official news agency—remained under the control of the Houthis, despite earlier reports that Saleh's forces had taken them over.

A southern Sanaa district that houses the residential compound of Saleh and his family was surrounded during the intense clashes.

The fighting also spread to northern areas. In Amran, armed tribesmen tried to cut the road between the provinces of Saada, a Houthi stronghold, and Jawf, sparking clashes in which scores of tribesmen were killed and wounded, witnesses said. In Mehwat, a province in northern Yemen, sporadic fighting also broke out between Saleh's supporters and the Houthis, while heavy fighting rocked the western district of Gidr in Sanaa province, where tribesmen took over military camps briefly before surrendering them to the Houthis.

Medical officials in Sanaa said nearly 75 people from both sides were killed and wounded in clashes there. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media, did not provide a breakdown of the casualties.

Ireland seeks momentum on border ahead of key Brexit meeting

LONDON (AP)—Ireland's foreign minister said Sunday that he's hopeful Britain's proposals for managing the Irish border after the U.K. leaves the European Union will generate the momentum to push stalled Brexit negotiations to their next phase.

As British and EU negotiators held weekend talks, Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told Ireland's RTE radio he hoped a crunch meeting Monday would yield enough progress to "allow this Brexit negotiation process to open up to phase two of discussions," focusing on future relations and trade.

The EU has given Britain a Monday deadline to produce concrete proposals on the key issues in their divorce talks, including maintaining an open border between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is due to meet top EU officials Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk in Brussels to lay out the proposals that will be considered by EU leaders before a Dec. 14-15 summit.

May's office said the meeting was "an important staging post" on the road to the summit, but there were "plenty of discussions still to go."

May's government has said there will be no "hard border" between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., once Britain leaves the EU's single market and customs union in March 2019. Ireland and other EU countries still want to know how customs checkpoints and other typical border activities can be avoided.

The two sides are reportedly close to a deal on other big issues, including the size of the bill that Britain must pay for departing the bloc and the rights of citizens affected by Brexit.

But as the divorce talks hit a crucial stage, divisions within Britain's governing Conservative Party over the EU are limiting the room May has to maneuver.

Lobbying group Leave Means Leave told May in a letter that she must refuse to compromise on several points, such as ensuring that European Court of Justice jurisdiction over Britain ends on the day the country officially out of the EU in 2019.

Several high-profile Conservative lawmakers signed the letter, including former Cabinet ministers Nigel Lawson and Owen Paterson.

Britain hopes the EU will agree to a two-year transition period after Brexit, but the bloc has insisted the Court of Justice would have to retain its authority in Britain during that time.

Overdrive

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Buick LaCrosse

luxury sedan returns for 2018

TNS

The 2018 Buick LaCrosse is aimed at professionals in their 30s who are looking for a bridge between a mass-market sedan like a Honda Accord and a more-expensive luxury brand such as BMW or Mercedes.

Buick's rebirth as a premium General Motors brand received a big boost with last year's introduction of the redesigned, next-generation LaCrosse full-size sedan, including new styling, technology and luxury amenities.

This car is aimed at professionals in their 30s who are looking for a bridge between a mass-market sedan like a Honda Accord and a more-expensive luxury brand such as BMW or Mercedes.

That has been the goal since the first modern version of the LaCrosse went on sale in 2009, and it has been a great success so far, with about 1 million of the LaCrosse sold since the 2009 rollout.

For 2018, now in its second year, this latest iteration of the LaCrosse starts at $29,565 (plus $925 freight) for the base 1SV model, and ranges as high as $38,665 for the top-of-the-line Premium model (before options).

Buick says the redesign last year gave the LaCrosse the "new face of Buick," including a new, larger signature waterfall grille with the return of the three-color Buick shield – red, silver and blue –and such features as high-intensity discharge headlights, LED signature lighting, and LED taillights.

For 2018, there is a new standard 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine with an eAssist light electrification system as the standard power on the LaCrosse. With a six-speed automatic transmission, it brings GM-estimated fuel-economy ratings of 25 mpg city/35 highway/29 combined.

A new nine-speed automatic transmission comes with the optional 3.6-liter V-6 engine ($2,500 extra), which is available with all-wheel drive ($2,200) on the top two trim levels.

The V-6 produces 310 horsepower and 282 foot-pounds of torque. EPA ratings are 21 mpg city/30 highway/24 combined for front-drive V-6 models; all-wheel drive lowers that a bit, to 20 city/29 highway/23 combined.

Four trim levels are offered, starting with the base LaCrosse (front-wheel drive only), followed by the Preferred ($33,665, front drive only); Essence ($36,365, front drive, I-4); and the Premium ($38.665, front-wheel drive; $43,425, all-wheel drive and V-6).

New exterior colors for 2018 are Satin Steel Metallic, Dark Slate Metallic and Red Quartz Tintcoat.

Not a full-blown hybrid system like that of the Toyota Avalon Hybrid, the eAssist provides a power boost from a small electric motor and onboard battery pack for start-up, and adds torque for passing and uphill freeway ramps. It also helps boost fuel efficiency.

The system includes regenerative braking, which diverts some of the energy normally lost during braking or coasting back to the lithium-ion battery pack through a motor/generator. It also has upper and lower aero shutters to reduce drag for enhanced efficiency.

Our test vehicle was the Premium front-drive model with the V-6 engine ($2.500) in the Quicksilver Metallic exterior color ($395 extra), and the Ebony interior with perforated leather seats.

The Premium comes with the best interior, with the perforated leather upholstery and a new, standard lumbar massage feature (great for an aching back).

Outside and inside, the LaCrosse also is elegant without any hint of overdoing it, and we found the front bucket seats to be among the most comfortable we've tested among sedans in this class, and even above.

Buick has added places to store and connect smartphones in the center console between the driver and front passenger, something the previous model was seriously lacking. You no longer have to put your phones in the cupholders.

Rear passengers had surprisingly roomy accommodations, particularly in the two outboard positions. There was ample knee and legroom, and when there was no third person riding in the back, a pull-down center armrest was available with dual cupholders.

At the bottom rear of the front center console are 12-t and 120-volt power outlets for the backseat passengers, ready to power laptops and game consoles as well as smartphones.

All trim levels come with Buick's QuietTuning, which is designed to reduce or block outside noise and vibration. That helped make our vehicle quiet at highway speeds, except for some occasional noise from rough pavement.

With last year's remake, the LaCrosse is longer, lower and wider than before, and about 300 pounds lighter, which GM attributes to the use of high-strength steels.

Fuel efficiency is enhanced by the automatic stop/start system, which shuts off the engine at stoplights and restarts it when the driver lifts the foot off the brake pedal; and the Active Fuel Management system on the V-6, which cuts the engine down to four cylinders during level highway cruising.

As with other recent new GM premium vehicles, the LaCrosse comes with long-lasting DuraLife brake rotors, with four-wheel antilock disc brakes standard. Other new features include enhanced electric power steering, a new five-link rear suspension standard on all levels, and a remote starting system with keyless open and pushbutton start also included across the board.

Wireless charging for compatible smartphones is standard on Essence and Premium trims. And the Teen Driver feature, standard on all models, lets parents set controls, review driving habits and encourage safe driving habits of their kids even when the parents are not present in the vehicle. This includes pre-set speed and audio volume controls.

Connectivity for compatible devices is possible through the IntelliLink audio/navigation system, which includes an eight-inch color touch screen, along with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto capability, and the OnStar 4G LTE internet connection with onboard Wi-Fi hotspot – standard on all models.

Among standard safety features are 10 air bags, including knee air bags for the driver and front passenger; and a standard rear-vision camera system.

Forward Collision Alert and Following Distance Indicator are standard on Premium models, along with the Safety Alert Seat, which pulse-vibrates to warn the driver of a possible impending forward collision or rear cross-traffic event, such as when backing out of a driveway into traffic. We also had ultrasonic rear park assist.

The Driver Confidence Package 1 — available on the Essence model and standard on the Premium – brings the Rear Cross-Traffic Alert, Side Blind Zone Alert and Lane Change Alert.

The Driver Confidence Package 2 ($1,690), included on our Premium tester, gave us Automatic Park Assist, Front Pedestrian Detection, Front Automatic Braking and Adaptive Cruise Control.

The head-up display included on the Premium model projected speed, navigation and audio information on the lower part of the windshield in front of the driver, and was adjustable for height (position) and brightness, using a switch on the left side of the steering wheel on the lower dash.

Our front seats had eight-way power adjust, along with four-way power lumbar support with the massage feature; and were heated and ventilated. Memory settings controlled the driver and passenger seats, steering wheel position, and outside driver's mirror. The steering column was power tilt and telescopic, and the steering wheel was heated.

An eight-inch driver-information display was above the steering column in the middle of the instrument panel.

Outside mirrors were power/heated/auto-dimming with built-in turn signals. We also had adaptable front headlights that automatically turned slightly in the direction the car was turning.

The in-dash eight-speaker audio/navigation system included OnStar and satellite radio, with Bluetooth phone and streaming capability.

Our Sun and Shade Package ($1,550) added a power sunroof and second-row skylight, with a power rear sunshade.

While 18-inch ultra-bright machined-aluminum wheels are standard on the Premium model, our test vehicle came with the optional 20-inch painted-aluminum wheels as part of the Dynamic Drive Package ($1,625). It also included continuously variable real time damping, the HiPer Strut front suspension, all-season black-wall tires, and Sport Mode Selectivity

The exterior of our car was Quicksilver Metallic, which cost $395 extra. The interior was Ebony.

Trunk space is on par with most cars in this class – 15 cubic feet with the V-6 engine, or 14.3 cubic feet with the eAssist system – that space is used by the battery pack. There is a compact spare tire included in the trunk.

With options and freight, the total sticker price of our V-6 Premium front-drive LaCrosse was $47,350, which brought us a well-equipped, beautiful luxury sedan with lots of curb appeal, plenty of power, and numerous high-tech safety and connectivity features.

Life & Style

After erroneous Flynn report, ABC News suspends Brian Ross

ABC News on Saturday suspended investigative reporter Brian Ross for four weeks without pay for his erroneous report on Michael Flynn, which it called a "serious error."

Ross, citing an unnamed confidant of Flynn, the former national security adviser, had reported Friday that then-candidate Donald Trump had directed Flynn to make contact with the Russians. That would have been an explosive development in the ongoing investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to interfere in the election. But hours later, Ross clarified his report on the evening news, saying that his source now said Trump had done so not as a candidate, but as president-elect. At that point, he said, Trump had asked Flynn to contact the Russians about issues including working together to fight ISIS.

ABC was widely criticized for merely clarifying and not correcting the report. It issued a correction later in the evening.

"We deeply regret and apologize for the serious error we made yesterday," the network said in a statement Saturday. "The reporting conveyed by Brian Ross during the special report had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process. As a result of our continued reporting over the next several hours ultimately we determined the information was wrong and we corrected the mistake on air and online.

Ross

"It is vital we get the story right and retain the trust we have built with our audience—these are our core principles. We fell far short of that yesterday. Effective immediately, Brian Ross will be suspended for four weeks without pay."

The news brought swift reaction from Trump, who tweeted: "Congratulations to @ABC News for suspending Brian Ross for his horrendously inaccurate and dishonest report on the Russia, Russia, Russia Witch Hunt. More Networks and "papers" should do the same with their Fake News!"

As for Ross, who is ABC's chief investigative correspondent, he tweeted: "My job is to hold people accountable and that's why I agree with being held accountable myself."

Ross, 69, joined the network in 1994. He has won a slew of journalism awards, including, according to his ABC bio, six George Polk awards, six Peabody awards and two Emmys, among others.

He also, though, has drawn criticism for previous errors. In just one example, ABC had to apologize in 2012 when Ross reported on "Good Morning America" that James Holmes, the suspect in the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado, might be connected to the tea party, based on a name listed on a web page. It turned out to be a different "Jim Holmes." Ross was criticized for politicizing the story with the error.

Journalism analyst Roy Peter Clark, senior scholar at the Poynter Institute, a nonprofit journalism school based in Florida, noted that while reporting errors are always serious, the current media climate—in which the president is accusing mainstream outlets of purveying "fake news"—renders the stakes even higher.

"There has been a significant change in the political culture in the last two years," Clark said. "That change has had many consequences for the practice of journalism. When the president of the United States refers to the press collectively as an enemy of the people, the people who support that view will interpret certain acts of journalism as being evidence that the president is correct."

"The problem," Clark added, "is that a mistake like this, even though it's ultimately corrected, and the reporter punished for it, feeds into a narrative that is now poisonous. When there is a clear mistake, it can be translated by folks who are attacking the press as bias. I think it's very important for journalists in this political culture to be more aggressive, and more cautious at the same time." ***(AP)***

AP

In this Nov. 27, 2017, file photo, director Luca Guadagnino, center, accepts the best feature award for "Call Me By Your Name" at the 27th annual Independent Film Project's Gotham Awards at Cipriani Wall Street in New York.

LA Critics name 'Call Me By Your Name' best film of 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Film Critics Association voted "Call Me By Your Name" the best film of the year, bestowing a total of three awards on Luca Guadagnino's erotic coming-of-age tale.

The critics, who announced their awards Sunday on Twitter, also named the film's breakout star, Timothee Chalamet, best actor. Guadagnino shared in the award for best director with Guillermo del Toro for "The Shape of Water." Del Toro's Cold War-era fairytale also came away with three awards, including best actress for Sally Hawkins.

The wins further solidified "Call Me By Your Name" as an Oscar favorite. The Sony Pictures Classics release, which last week set the year's box-office record for best screen-average in its limited-release debut, also won best feature at last week's Gotham Awards. Chalamet, though just 21, has won three awards just in the past week, besting veteran names like Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour") and Tom Hanks ("The Post").

Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird," which the New York Film Critics Circle named best film, landed one award from the Los Angeles critics: Laurie Metcalf for best supporting actress. The Los Angeles critics also gave Gerwig, whose film is her first solo directorial effort, its "new generation" award.

The Los Angeles critics matched in some categories with their New York counterparts, who announced awards on Tuesday. Both groups selected Willem Dafoe ("The Florida Project") for best supporting actor and Agnes Varda's "Faces Places" for best documentary.

But—as usual—they deviated in most other ways. (Last year, the New York critics voted "La La Land" best picture, while the Los Angeles critics went for "Moonlight.") Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk," which is considered an Oscar favorite though it has won little in the early going, took best editing for Lee Smith.

The group also opted not for Pixar's "Coco" as best animated film, but "The Breadwinner," an international production about a girl in Afghanistan. Best screenplay went to Jordan Peele for "Get Out."

Best music or score was given to Jonny Greenwood for Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread." The Los Angeles critics arrived at a tie for foreign-language film, splitting the award between the French "BPM" and the Russian "Loveless."

Other awards included Dan Laustsen for the cinematography to "The Shape of Water" and Dennis Gassner for the production design of "Blade Runner 2049."

The awards will be handed out in a ceremony January 13 in Los Angeles. The critics earlier chose actor Max von Sydow for its career achievement award.

HBO film looks at legendary Washington Post editor Bradlee

NEW YORK (AP)—The White House is hostile to the press, public figures misbehave and a vital Washington Post is at the center of the national conversation. Think any of those things are new?

HBO's film on the legendary Post editor Ben Bradlee proves otherwise. "The Newspaperman: The Life and Times of Ben Bradlee," which debuts Monday at 8 p.m. ET on the cable network, feels strikingly contemporary as it follows the editor through his Boston upbringing, friendship with President John F. Kennedy and leadership through release of the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate scandal that took down former President Richard Nixon.

It's part of a resurgence of attention for Bradlee, who is portrayed by Tom Hanks in Steven Spielberg's upcoming movie "The Post." The HBO project was instigated by Bradlee's son Quinn, who suggested it to HBO.

"It's hard not to fall in love with a guy like Ben—man or woman," said film director John Maggio. "Because he just lived life in the moment—a very large life—and was there for some of the most important moments of the second half of the 20th Century."

Maggio found the perfect narrator for most of the film in Bradlee himself. He died in 2014, but Maggio unearthed an audio book that Bradlee had recorded in 1994.

"When I heard that voice, that smoky, Brahmin growl of a voice, I knew I had to have it in the film," he said. "The film took on a whole new character for me. So much of his personality was in his bearing, his presence. I wanted that to be in the film."

AP

This undated photo provided by HBO shows former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee in the newsroom in Washington.

Billy Bush says Trump 'Access Hollywood' tape is real

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Bush says it was indeed Donald Trump's voice captured on a 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape talking about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women.

In an op-ed published Sunday in The New York Times the former "Access Hollywood" and "Today" show personality says, "Of course he said it."

Bush

Bush writes everyone nearby at the time thought they were listening to "a crass standup act."

The tape emerged during the 2016 presidential campaign and prompted more than a dozen women to come forward to say that Trump had sexually assaulted or harassed them. He denied it.

Bush says he felt the need to write the piece following reports that Trump has privately suggested that the tape is not authentic.

Former public radio host being accused of sexual misconduct

NEW YORK (AP)—A former public radio host in New York City who left his show earlier this year has been accused of sexual misconduct by an author and some of his former colleagues.

Suki Kim said she met former WNYC "The Takeaway" host John Hockenberry in 2014 as a guest on the radio program. He later sent her a series of emails that made her uncomfortable, asking for her home address so he could write her letters and entitling a subject line: "Need another dose of you," she wrote in an article published on New York Magazine's website.

He left the radio show in August, saying it was time to move on.

After the accusations against media mogul Harvey Weinstein broke, Kim decided to ask Hockenberry's former colleagues about whether they ever felt uncomfortable, she wrote. One former colleague, Kristen Meinzer, told her that he made unwanted advances and wrote her sexually-explicit notes through social media. She eventually left the show.

Others reported similar behavior but did not want to be named in the story. Kim, author of "Without You, There Is No Us: Undercover Among the Sons of North Korea's Elite" had complained to the station in February.

In a statement, New York Public Radio called the allegations against Hockenberry disturbing and said the conduct described in the article "would clearly violate NYPR's standards and workplace practices."

A spokeswoman for New York Public Radio said Hockenberry's contract expired June 30 and was not renewed. She said the company cannot comment on why his contract was not renewed.

A statement from "The Takeaway" posted on Twitter said the show was disturbed by the report and takes the allegations very seriously.

Hockenberry issued a statement to the website, saying that he was horrified people felt uncomfortable.

"Looking back, my behavior was not always appropriate and I'm sorry. It horrifies me that I made the talented and driven people I worked with feel uncomfortable, and that the stress around putting together a great show was made worse by my behavior."

"Having to deal with my own physical limitations has given me an understanding of powerlessness, and I should have been more aware of how the power I wielded over others, coupled with inappropriate comments and communications, could be construed. I have no excuses," said Hockenberry, who is in a wheelchair after being paralyzed in high school following a car accident.

Hockenberry did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment.

'Coco' tops box office for second straight week with $26.1M

NEW YORK (AP)—In a sleepy post-Thanksgiving weekend at the box office, Pixar's "Coco" remained the top film for the second straight week while a number of Oscar contenders packed theaters in specialty release.

"Coco" again easily led all films with $26.1 million in the U.S. and Canada, according to studio estimates Sunday. The acclaimed animated tale based on the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) has dominated new releases both domestically and abroad. It has already racked up a global gross of $280 million, including record-breaking totals in Mexico and an impressive $75.6 million in China.

AP

In this image released by Disney-Pixar, character Hector, voiced by Gael Garcia Bernal, left, and Miguel, voiced by Anthony Gonzalez, appear in a scene from the animated film, "Coco."

With no major wide releases, Warner Bros.' "Justice League" also held in second place with $16.6 million in its third weekend. With a domestic total of $197.3 million in three weeks, the DC Comics superhero team-up release isn't going to catch Marvel's "Thor: Ragnarok." The better-received "Thor" sequel has proved far mightier, with nearly $300 million in five weeks of release.

The family film "Wonder," about a fifth-grade boy (Jacob Tremblay) with facial abnormalities, likewise stayed in third with $12.5 million. The sleeper hit of the season, also starring Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson, has taken in $88 million in three weeks for Lionsgate.

Among new releases, most successful was James Franco's "The Disaster Artist." The comedy opened with $1.2 million on 19 screens, good for a per-screen average of $64,254. The film, directed by and starring Franco, is about the making of the infamously bad cult movie "The Room."

With most studios staying clear ahead of the impending release of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" (which some forecasts peg for a $200-million debut), much of the weekend's action was with awards-season releases.

1. **"Coco,"** $26.1 million ($69 million international).
2. **"Justice League,"** $16.6 million ($35.7 million international).
3. **"Wonder,"** $12.5 million ($7.8 million international).
4. **"Thor: Ragnarok,"** $9.7 million ($6.5 million international).
5. **"Daddy's Home 2,"** $7.5 million ($15.6 million international).
6. **"Murder on the Orient Express,"** $6.7 million ($23.1 million international).
7. **"Lady Bird,"** $4.5 million.
8. **"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,"** $4.5 million.
9. **"The Star,"** $4 million.
10. **"A Bad Moms Christmas,"** $3.5 million ($3.7 million international).

Woman is ready to hang up on constantly calling husband

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I argue more than I'd like. I am pretty easygoing and passive; he likes his feelings to be known. Over time I have become worn down, and my patience has worn thin.

We are starting to rebound from what I call "the year from hell." His drinking and poor choices nearly put us on the street, and I was ready to walk. Things are starting to get better, but what we can't seem to agree on is communication during the day.

Abby, I am on the phone for a living. I cannot stand being on it more than I must be. He calls and/or texts me up to 12 times a day. I can't stand it. Even when I'm busy or give him a time certain when I will call him back, he beeps in before I have the chance.

I am now at the end of my rope. With all that I have dealt with, worked through and put up with, this is something I will not compromise on.

I feel it's more than sufficient to talk on my way in to work, maybe check in around lunch, then on the way home. He feels that because I don't feel the need to call or talk that much that I don't love him. I can't stand listening to the dead air or breathing because there is nothing to talk about. Am I being petty for letting this be the thing that will break us?

TALKS TOO MUCH IN TEXAS

DEAR TALKS TOO MUCH: If you want to save your marriage after everything you have been through, make the time for marriage counseling. What may destroy your marriage isn't your husband's talking; it's his neediness, insecurity and insensitivity.

Frankly, what you have described strikes me as controlling rather than loving behavior. After the struggles you have described, you have already proven your love for him. Being at his beck and call during the workday should not be an additional requirement.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law is extremely allergic to cats. We have six cats, but live 1,000 miles away from her. When her 8-year-old son comes to visit, he has a Ziploc bag full of clean clothes that he puts on before he goes home. The clothes he wore here are sealed up at the end of his trip to be washed.

I'm OK with this. But I need some advice for an upcoming big family holiday gathering. We have all been courteously asked to wash our clothes before coming, to vacuum our vehicles and to limit our contact with cats before arriving. Am I wrong to feel like it's her problem, not ours?

WHOSE PROBLEM IS IT

DEAR WHOSE PROBLEM: Yes, you are wrong. When a family member has a health problem that can be triggered by the others, it becomes everyone's problem. If the steps needed to keep her safe are too much for you, you should stay home.

DEAR ABBY: Is it cheating to proofread your college-aged child's final before he/she turns it in?

WONDERING IN ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR WONDERING: To read it? No. To correct it, yes.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

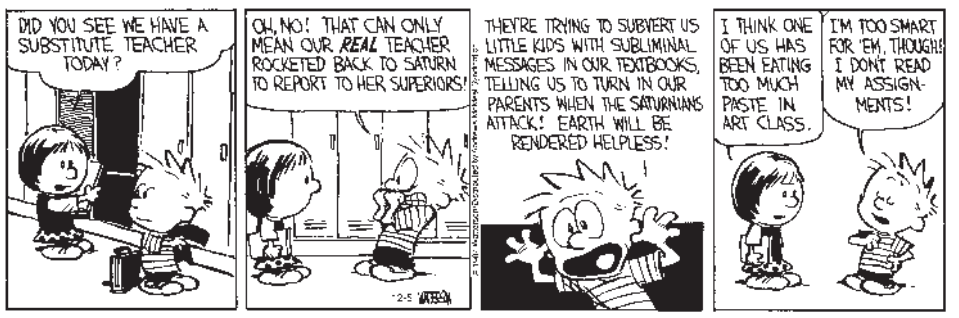
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID YOU SEE WE HAVE A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TODAY?
OH, NO! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN OUR REAL TEACHER ROCKETED BACK TO SATURN TO REPORT TO HER SUPERIORS!
THEY'RE TRYING TO SUBVERT US LITTLE KIDS WITH SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES IN OUR TEXTBOOKS, TELLING US TO TURN IN OUR PARENTS WHEN THE SATURNIANS ATTACK! EARTH WILL BE RENDERED HELPLESS!
I THINK ONE OF US HAS BEEN EATING TOO MUCH PASTE IN ART CLASS.
I'M TOO SMART FOR 'EM, THOUGH! I DON'T READ MY ASSIGNMENTS!

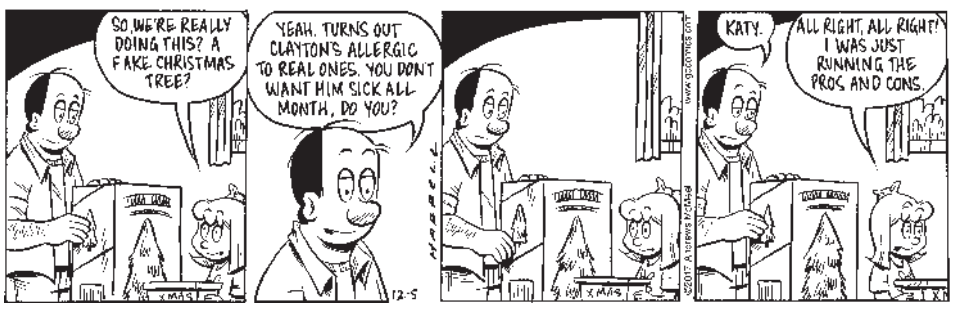
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WELL, THOSE CHRISTMAS COOKIES DIDN'T LAST LONG
BURRRP
THEY WERE SOOOOO GOOD, THOUGH
YOU KNOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BAKE THEM FIRST
NOW YOU'RE JUST BORING ME WITH DETAILS

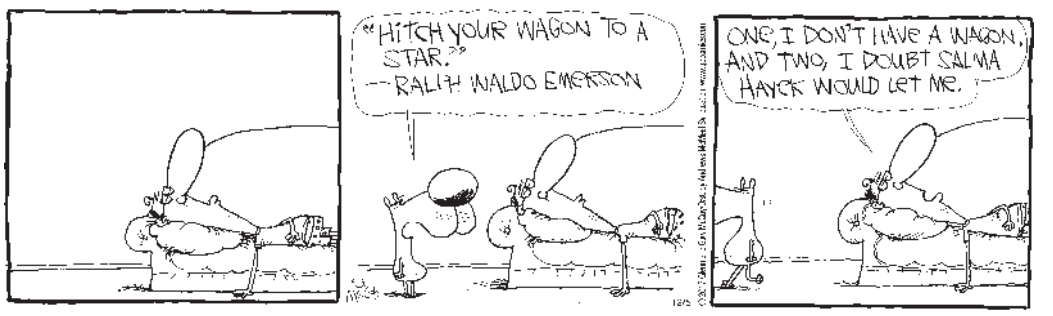
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, WE'RE REALLY DOING THIS? A FAKE CHRISTMAS TREE?
YEAH. TURNS OUT CLAYTON'S ALLERGIC TO REAL ONES. YOU DON'T WANT HIM SICK ALL MONTH, DO YOU?
KATY.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I WAS JUST RUNNING THE PROS AND CONS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

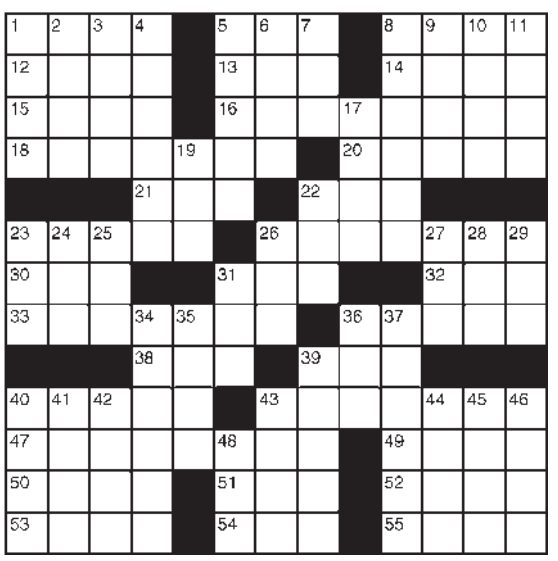
ACROSS
1 Wild guess
5 "Eureka!"
8 Farm grazers
12 Killer whale
13 Workout venue
14 "Hi, sailor!"
15 Tale teller
16 Neglected item
18 Pi preceder
20 Home
21 Help
22 Coach Parseghian
23 Take forcibly
26 Some Nebraskans
30 Day light?
31 Firmament
32 Sound of delight
33 Brunch orders
36 Quiz answer
38 TV Tarzan Ron
39 Vacuum's lack
40 Purple shade
43 Anthology
47 Hardly a fussy eater?
49 "Brave New World" drug
50 Wee parasite
51 Yank's foe
52 Catch sight of
53 Big fusses
54 Fluffy scarf
55 Legendary loch

DOWN
1 Without help
2 Decorate
3 Anti-oxidant berry
4 Pub on wheels
5 Do — turn
6 Church song
7 "— Blue?"
8 Algiers section
9 Buckeye State
10 Fireplace fuel
11 "Auld Lang —"
17 Poet Teasdale
19 Shred
22 Actress Adams
23 GIs' entertainers
24 Bottom line
25 French article
26 Approves
27 "You've got mail" ISP
28 Refusals
29 That lady
31 Pigs' digs
34 Imposes, as a tax
35 Hgt.
36 Shark feature
37 Out of bed
39 Unicellular creature
40 NYC gallery
41 During
42 "Do — others ..."
43 Sandwich cookie
44 Audio equipment brand
45 Diamond arbiters
46 Declares
48 Sphere

Solution time: 22 mins.

B	E	A	R		B	A	R		D	A	D	O
E	L	B	E		U	S	H		I	C	E	D
E	L	E	C		S	H	E	T	L	A	N	D
S	A	L	A	M	I		A	D	A	P	T	S
			L	E	N	O		S	T	U		
S	H	E	L	T	C	R	S		E	L	S	A
P	O	X		A	S	T	E	P		C	O	O
A	B	C	D		S	I	E	R	I	O	C	K
		U	R	N		O	P	I	E			
A	S	S	A	I	L		E	G	G	N	O	G
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D		A		R	Y
I	I	M	E		V	I	I		C	L	A	M
O	N	E	S		I	O	N		Y	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 12-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 32; Margaret Cho, 49; John Rzeznik, 52; Little Richard, 85.

Happy Birthday: Look for unusual opportunities to improve your health, financial and emotional future. Taking care of important business and putting an end to what hasn't been working for you in the past will point you in the right direction. Don't trust anyone but yourself, and base your plans on the research you do personally. This is the time to recoup what you've lost. Your numbers are 5, 15, 23, 29, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Refuse to let anyone put unreasonable demands on you. Time is precious and it's important that you use whatever skills and knowledge you have to the best of your ability. Embrace change and make the most out of what transpires. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What you do for others will shape the way you are treated and how much you can accomplish. Look for new ways to improve relationships and professional situations. Put some muscle behind your plans and forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. How well you get along with your peers will determine the opportunities that unfold. Being a team player will encourage colleagues to support you and rivals to back down. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get involved in activities and events that your friends are indulging in, and you will find common purposes that will bring you closer together. Good ideas stem from using your imagination and sharing with others. Personal growth is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Tidy up any loose ends that might affect your tax status. Getting everything in order will give you the freedom to enjoy the holiday season. Travel plans can be made and long-term goals set. Keep your personal matters a secret. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Travel, communication and helping others will give you insight into what you want to do next or how you want to live the rest of your life. Inner growth will lead to personal changes that offer less stress and better relationships. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be careful how you handle personal situations. Don't let what's happening at home affect your responsibilities at work. An interesting job opportunity should be considered. Don't miss out because someone is making emotional demands. Do what's best for you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look for ways to cut your costs at home or to do away with expenses you can live without. Be creative and you'll come up with better and more cost-efficient ways to maintain your current lifestyle without jeopardizing your bank account. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't divulge secret information or get involved with anyone who could taint your reputation. Be firm in your convictions and steady in the way you handle relationships. Change should begin within to ensure that you are standing on solid ground emotionally. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Emotions will mount and trouble will surface if you are too open about what you have been doing. Be innovative and use your imagination and intuition to ensure that you only reveal what's necessary. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't go overboard and you will achieve the success you desire. Keeping a steady pace and avoiding overspending, overreacting or overdoing will help to balance and stabilize your life. Moderation and positive change are up to you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Develop your ideas and you'll find a way to make them happen. Let your emotions be the propeller that pushes you to turn something small into something big. Refuse to let criticism or outside demands stifle your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original, helpful and empathetic. You are sensitive and willful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	9						8	3
				2				
3			4		8			5
		1		8		5		
	5		6	7	3		2	
		7		4		6		
6			9		2			4
				1				
5	8						6	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	1	2	3	7	8	5	9	4
5	4	9	6	2	1	8	3	7
7	3	8	9	5	4	1	6	2
2	9	1	7	4	5	3	8	6
3	5	4	8	6	9	2	7	1
8	7	6	1	3	2	4	5	9
1	6	3	2	8	7	9	4	5
4	2	7	5	9	3	6	1	8
9	8	5	4	1	6	7	2	3

Difficulty Level ★ 12/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEES Solution: 10 letters

R	R	K	R	O	D	N	E	V	A	R	O	N	O	H
I	E	C	C	S	U	G	G	E	S	T	I	O	N	C
S	F	C	R	A	N	T	E	R	G	E	R	I	S	T
K	U	D	A	A	B	T	I	B	E	D	S	T	E	A
F	N	V	H	L	C	D	T	E	E	U	A	A	G	M
R	D	C	R	B	L	K	E	R	O	T	S	G	A	E
E	X	O	T	R	N	S	E	E	E	C	D	I	R	C
E	D	U	P	O	R	W	G	D	(F)	L	N	T	E	I
T	R	P	E	K	U	A	R	(A)	T	A	A	S	V	R
A	A	O	C	E	T	R	(I)	E	I	I	R	E	E	P
C	C	N	C	N	E	(R)	A	C	Y	M	B	V	L	S
O	S	S	A	A	R	A	R	E	M	U	S	N	O	C
V	I	V	D	S	G	N	I	T	A	R	B	I	A	A
D	D	R	E	P	U	T	A	T	I	O	N	E	D	S
A	P	O	L	I	C	Y	T	L	A	Y	O	L	D	H

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Accept, Advantageous, Advocate, Alert, Brands, Broken, Buyer, Care, Cash, Claim, Consumer, Coupons, Cracked, Debit, Discard, Exchange, Fair, Feedback, Honor, Investigation, Leverage, Load, Loyalty, Order, Policy, Price Match, Ratings, Read, Recalls, Refund, Regret, Reputation, Return, Risk-free, State, Suggestion, Vendor, Warranty

Yesterday's Answer: Businesswoman

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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK PACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- MATTHEW A. OOKA, RITA M. OOKA, and the SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, Defendants.	))))))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0238

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, MATTHEW A. OOKA AND RITA M. OOKA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 522, Saipan, MP, 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated November 15, 2017 by order of the Court:
/s/
Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF MIKE'S CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that MIKE's CORPORATION is hereby dissolving the corporation effective Dec 4, 2017.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present them in writing and mail to:
Eun Hie Shin
P.O. Box 500977
Saipan, MP 96950

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

Gemkell Saipan Corporation

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes or application documents must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on Friday, December 15, 2017.** Background checks will be required prior to employment.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Masterful Wilson leads Seahawks past Eagles

AP
Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson drops back to pass against the Philadelphia Eagles during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, in Seattle.

SEATTLE (AP)—Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, the last a 15-yard strike to J.D. McKissic with 7:29 left, and the Seattle Seahawks stayed in the NFC playoff hunt with a 24-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

Seattle (8-4) snapped Philadelphia's nine-game winning streak thanks largely to another masterful performance by its quarterback. Wilson was 20 of 31 for 227 and threw touchdowns of 11 yards to Jimmy Graham, 1-yard to Tyler Lockett and the TD to McKissic after the Eagles had trimmed the lead to seven.

"I thought Russell was phenomenal tonight. I thought that was Russell showing you everything he's all about," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "From start to finish, from the first play of the game he was on it. He created. His execution was excellent."

Philadelphia (10-2) was the highest-scoring team in the NFL averaging 31.9 points per game. But the Eagles got just 10 points out of seven drives that at some point reached Seattle territory.

Carson Wentz was 29 of 45 for 348 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Wentz had a costly fumble at the Seattle 1 on the opening drive of the second half that could have pulled the Eagles even at 10-all.

Wentz was inches shy of breaking the plane when Sheldon Richardson ripped the ball free. The loose ball bounced around the end zone and eventually over the end line for a touchback and Seattle's ball. It was a major turning point as Seattle went 80 yards in 11 plays, capped by Wilson's 1-yard pass to Lockett and a 17-3 Seattle lead. The touchdown was setup by a 47-yard pass to Doug Baldwin on third-and-10 beating a Philadelphia blitz.

"I make my big plays here and there," Richardson said.

Seattle snapped a rare two-game losing streak at home mostly because of Wilson. It wasn't his best game in numbers, but it might be one of his best performances. He came up with key throws when needed, kept plays alive with his legs and pulled out some unexpected improvisation just went the Seahawks needed it.

"We had a good game plan going against (Wilson)," Philadelphia safety Corey Graham said. "But as you see, you know how it is, better in person than it is on film."

Vikings 14, Falcons 9

In Atlanta, Case Keenum threw a pair of touchdown passes, and Minnesota extended its winning streak to eight straight games, keeping Atlanta out of the end zone.

Keenum, who was 25 of 30 for 227 yards, hooked up with Jerick McKinnon on a 2-yard scoring play in the second quarter, and went to Kyle Rudolph for a 6-yard TD on the first play of the fourth quarter, capping an 89-yard drive that consumed more than eight minutes.

Patriots 23, Bills 3

In Orchard Park, Rex Burkhead scored twice and the Patriots won their eighth straight in an AFC East showdown overshadowed by injuries and cheap shots.

Bills starting quarterback Tyrod Taylor had a towel draped over his head while being carted off the sideline with a left knee injury early in the fourth quarter.

Saints 31, Panthers 21

In New Orleans, rookie sensation Alvin Kamara scored two tackle-shedding touchdowns, and New Orleans took advantage of a pair of Carolina special teams gaffes asthe Saints reclaimed sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

Mark Ingram rushed for 85 yards and a touchdown for the Saints (9-3), who own the head-to-head tiebreaker over Carolina (8-4) with four games to go.

Chargers 19, Browns 10

In Carson, Philip Rivers passed for 344 yards and hit Keenan Allen for a touchdown, and the surging Chargers moved into a tie for first place in the AFC West with a victory over the winless Browns.

Allen had 10 catches for 105 yards in his third straight big game for the Chargers (6-6), who have won six of eight to pull even with Oakland and slumping Kansas City atop the division with four games to go.

Raiders 24, Giants 17

In Oakland, the Raiders' Marshawn Lynch had a 51-yard touchdown run and got his first 100-yard rushing game since coming out of retirement, in New York's first game without Eli Manning starting in 13 years.

Oakland (6-6) overcame the absences of starting receivers Michael Crabtree (suspension) and Amari Cooper (injury) to win consecutive games for the first time since the opening two games of the season. The Raiders moved into a three-way tie for first place in the AFC West with Kansas City and the Chargers.

Rams 32, Cardinals 16

In Glendale, Jared Goff passed for two touchdowns, Los Angeles took advantage of two early interceptions thrown by Blaine Gabbert, and the Rams solidified their grip on first place in the NFC West.

The Rams (9-3) won for the sixth time in seven games to clinch their first winning season since 2003 when they were in St. Louis. They took the season series with the Cardinals for only the second time in the last 14 years and first since 2012.

Jets 38, Chiefs 31

In East Rutherford, Josh McCown scored on a 1-yard quarterback sneak with 2:15 left, and the Jets bounced back from a brutal start for a wild and wacky win over the spiraling Chiefs.

Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 21-yard field goal to put the Jets (5-7) ahead with 3:55 left. But Kansas City's Bennie Logan was called for a personal foul for hitting long snapper Thomas Hennessy on the play. That gave the Jets the ball at the 1 with a new set of downs.

Packers 26, Buccaneers 20, OT

In Green Bay, Aaron Jones' 20-yard touchdown run on his only carry, with 5:59 left in overtime, won it.

With the passing game struggling, Green Bay (6-6) wore down the Buccaneers on the ground. Brett Hundley had runs of 18 and 7 yards on the drive to start overtime.

The Packers grinded out a win to stay in the playoff race, though they trail NFC North leader Minnesota by four games. They hope to get starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers back from a collarbone injury in a couple weeks.

Titans 24, Texans 13

In Nashville, LeShaun Sims intercepted a pass intended for DeAndre Hopkins in the end zone with 1:02 left, and the stayed atop the AFC South.

Marcus Mariota also ran for a touchdown and threw for another, but the Titans needed the interception to preserve the win with Tom Savage throwing for a career-high 365 yards despite the Texans losing four offensive players to injuries during the game.

Ravens 44, Lions 20

In Baltimore, Joe Flacco threw for 269 yards and two touchdowns, and the Ravens survived a strong comeback bid by Matthew Stafford and the Lions.

After relying heavily on their opportunistic defense for much of the season, the Ravens (7-5) finally received an ample contribution from the league's 31st-ranked offense. Flacco helped Baltimore take a 20-0 halftime lead and directed three scoring drives in the fourth quarter to keep the Ravens in front.

Flacco completed 23 of 36 passes while guiding an offense that did not commit a turnover.

Jaguars 30, Colts 10

In Jacksonville, Blake Bortles threw two touchdown passes, Leonard Fournette scored for the first time in six weeks and the Jaguars swept the series for the second time since they joined the AFC South in 2002.

The Jaguars (8-4) bounced back from a last-second loss at Arizona, reached eight wins for the first time since 2010, and remained in the thick of the playoff picture.

Bortles, Fournette and some more trickery had a lot to do with the latest victory. Bortles completed 26 of 35 passes for 309 yards, with TD passes to Marqise Lee and Keelan Cole.

Dolphins 35, Broncos 9

In Miami Gardens, Xavien Howard's 30-yard interception return for a touchdown highlighted a dominating defensive effort by the Dolphins, and they snapped a five-game losing streak.

The Broncos (3-9) lost their eighth in a row.

Miami (5-7) scored two safeties in a game for the first time in franchise history and held Denver to 1 for 13 on third-down conversions. Trevor Siemian, the Broncos' third starting quarterback in as many weeks, went 20 for 42 for 219 yards with three interceptions.

49ers 15, Bears 14

In Chicago, Robbie Gould kicked a 24-yard field goal in the closing seconds and Jimmy Garoppolo threw for 293 yards in his first San Francisco start.

Gould made five field goals in his first appearance at Soldier Field since Chicago cut him prior to the 2016 opener. The Bears' all-time leader in points and field goals made, he shouted at their sideline after he nailed the winner.

Garoppolo was solid in his first start since the 49ers (2-10) acquired him from New England before the trade deadline in October. The suburban Chicago product completed 26 of 37 passes with an interception. And the 49ers picked up the win after losing their first five road games.

Westbrook makes triple-double in win over Spurs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—It was an ugly win against a short-handed opponent, but the struggling Oklahoma City Thunder are in no position to worry about such details.

Russell Westbrook posted his seventh triple-double of the season to help the Thunder defeat the San Antonio Spurs 90-87 on Sunday night.

Westbrook had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Thunder, who won their second straight after dropping five of their previous six.

"A win is always great in this league," Westbrook said. "You don't take anything for granted."

Steven Adams added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won even though No. 2 scorer Paul George had only eight points on 2-for-17 shooting. But the Thunder held the Spurs to 40.8 percent shooting.

"We just missed some shots," Westbrook said. "We overshot some that we usually make. As long as we defended—we can't score, they can't either."

Dejounte Murray had 17 points and Derrick White added 16 for San Antonio. With a chance to tie it at the end, Brandon Paul missed a 3-pointer and the Thunder rebounded.

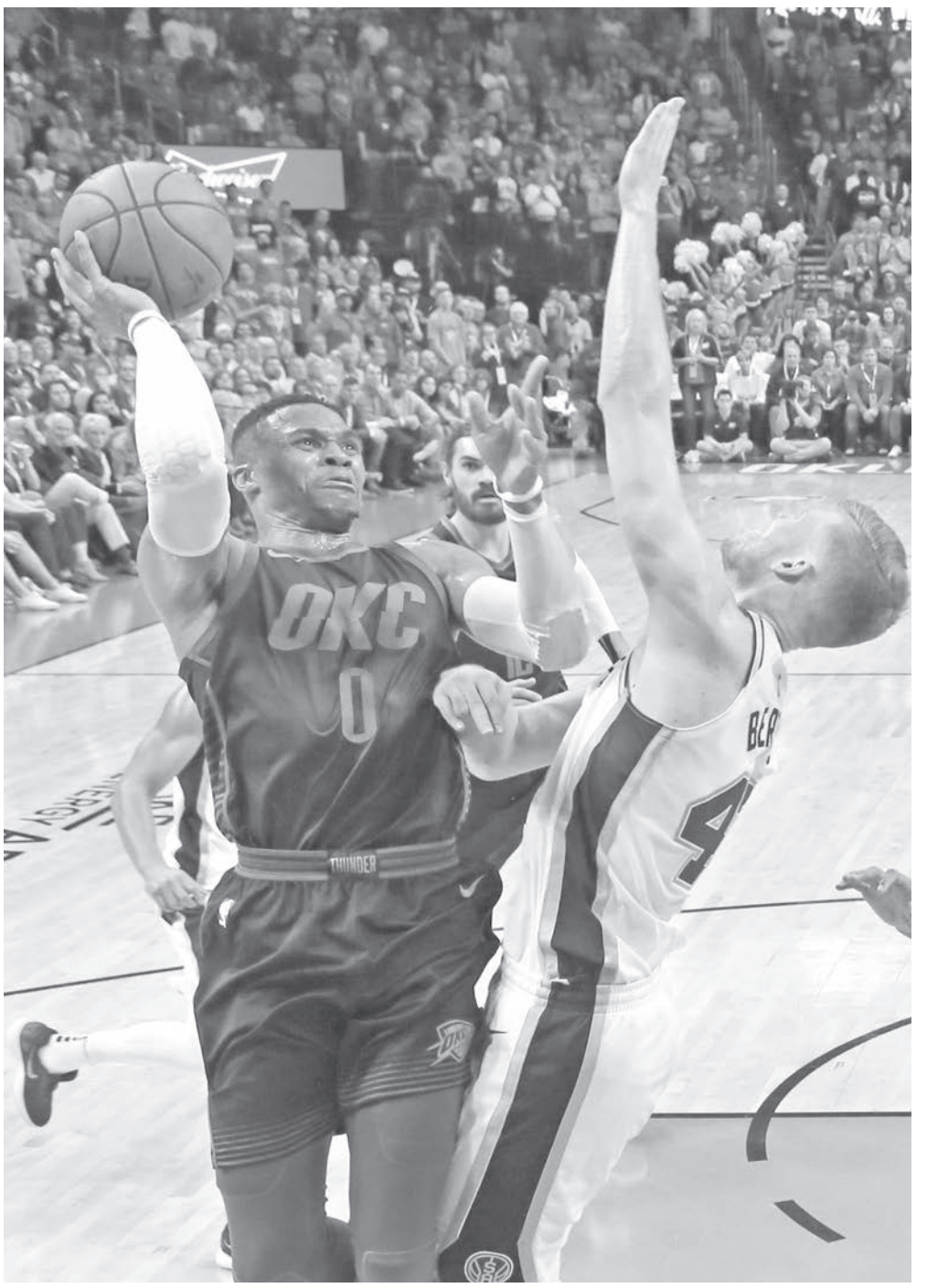
Spurs starters LaMarcus Aldridge and Tony Parker sat out. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said Aldridge rested with a minor knee issue and Parker was "dinged-up." The Spurs are still waiting for forward Kawhi Leonard's right quadriceps to heal.

The injury news got worse on Sunday. San Antonio's Kyle Anderson sprained his left knee with a minute remaining in the third quarter and did not return.

Popovich liked the way his team competed.

"I'm really proud of them," he said. "I thought they did a great job tonight. Defense in the second half was very good. Had a lot of guys participate and a lot of guys get a lot of minutes. They did very, very well."

Jerami Grant's 3-pointer as time expired in the first half gave the Thunder a 54-43 advantage. Adams had 17 points on 7-for-10 shooting and Oklahoma City led even though George went scoreless and Carmelo Anthony managed just three points.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots in front of San Antonio Spurs forward Davis Bertans, right, during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017. Oklahoma City won, 90-87.

Warriors 123, Heat 95

In Miami, Stephen Curry scored 30 points in 30 minutes, Kevin Durant added 24 and the Golden State rode a big third-quarter run to pull away and beat Miami.

Klay Thompson scored 19 points for the Warriors, who started the second half on an 18-3 run and outscored Miami 37-17 in the third. Golden State's lead was only two at the half, then ballooned to 99-77 going into the fourth.

Curry—playing with a sore finger on his shooting hand—had 16 of his points in the first quarter, then 10 more in the third.

Goran Dragic scored 20 points for the Heat. They led by eight in the early going and 36-33 after the first quarter. The Heat then scored 41 points in the next 24 minutes.

Rockets 118, Lakers 95

In Los Angeles, James Harden scored 36 points, Eric Gordon added 22 and Houston beat Los Angeles for its seventh consecutive victory.

Chris Paul had 21 points for Houston, which has won six straight road games and 13 of 14 overall. Harden also had nine assists.

Kyle Kuzma led Los Angeles with 22 points, and Brandon Ingram added 18. Rookie point guard Lonzo Ball struggled again, missing all four shots from the field and finishing with two points and three assists.

Magic 105, Knicks 100

In New York, Nikola Vucevic scored 34 points—eight straight in a decisive 10-0 fourth-quarter run—and Orlando beat New York.

With the score tied at 85 midway through the fourth quarter, Vucevic made a short basket, a three-point play and a 3-point shot in succession to give the Magic the lead for good.

Evan Fournier had 20 points, Jonathon Simmons added 16, and Elfrid Payton had 15 for Orlando.

Michael Beasley, who replaced the injured Kristaps Porzingis in the starting lineup, led the Knicks with 21 points. Courtney Lee had 19, and Enes Kanter added 18 points and 16 rebounds.

Timberwolves 112, Clippers 106

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler scored 20 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, Taj Gibson added 20 and Minnesota outlasted Los Angeles.

The Wolves overcame a season-high 30 points from Austin Rivers, who matched his career best with seven 3-pointers. Rivers' final 3-pointer gave L.A. a 92-91 lead with 6:54 to play before Butler scored nine in a row to send the Clippers to their third straight loss.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota for his NBA-leading 19th double-double of the season.

Iceland eyes 'romantic' World Cup debut against Messi

MOSCOW (AP)—Iceland coach Heimir Hallgrimsson is excited about a "romantic" World Cup debut against Lionel Messi and Argentina.

Then he wants a divorce after his team completes its Group D fixtures against Nigeria and old rival Croatia.

"We seem to be a married couple," Hallgrimsson joked after being drawn to play the Croats for the third time in five years of World Cup play.

Iceland won its qualifying group in October ahead of Croatia which was runner-up. The popular Nordic nation was denied a place at the 2014 tournament by losing a playoff to the Croats.

"Absolutely after the World Cup we are going to get a divorce from Croatia," Hallgrimsson told reporters Friday at the State Kremlin Palace.

Still, romance blossomed in the smiling coach's words as he reflected on a tough but fascinating group.

Argentina will be the opponent for Iceland's debut as the smallest nation ever to play at a World Cup finals tournament.

Messi and the two-time champion lie in wait for Iceland on June 16 at Spartak Stadium in Moscow.

"You can't have a better welcome," Hallgrimsson said, acknowledging that "there are a lot of romantic things in our heads now we start to play Argentina."

Iceland will arrive in Russia as less of a surprise after its stunning European Championship debut last year.

Then, Iceland opened against soccer's other superstar, Cristiano Ronaldo, and drew 1-1 with eventual champion Portugal to start a fairytale journey into the quarterfinals.

That match in France showed the wider soccer world a post-game thunderclap exchange between players and fans that is now Iceland's signature.

Hallgrimsson hopes 15,000 of the island's population of about 330,000 will travel to Russia where Iceland should be many fans' second favorite team.

"I think (our fans) will be stars in the World Cup, happy people. They will enjoy Russia," said the coach, who is a qualified dentist. "I hope we keep on making people happy."

Still, Hallgrimsson is serious about advancing to the Round of 16.

"We deserve to be here," he said. "We aim to progress from the group."

Ohtani rules out Yanks, Red Sox, others; prefers West Coast

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees and Red Sox are among the teams that pitcher and outfielder Shohei Ohtani has ruled out, and it seems the Japanese star will likely pursue a smaller market nearer to the West Coast.

New York general manager Brian Cashman confirmed to reporters Sunday night that his club was out of the running.

"I know that our presentation was excellent," Cashman said. "The feedback from that was outstanding. But I did get a sense that I can't change that we're a big market and I can't change we're in the East."

Red Sox spokesman Kevin Gregg confirmed Boston's elimination from the bidding. The New York Mets, Oakland Athletics, Pittsburgh Pirates, Tampa Bay Rays, Minnesota Twins and Milwaukee Brewers are also among the teams told they won't sign Ohtani.

Ohtani was put up for bid Friday by the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters for the maximum $20 million posting fee. The 23-year-old has until 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 22 to agree to a contract with an MLB team.

Ohtani is limited to a minor league contract because of restrictions imposed by the MLB collective bargaining agreement. The largest deal he could sign is with the Texas Rangers for $3,535,000, followed by the Yankees ($3.5 million), Minnesota ($3.07 million), Pittsburgh ($2,266,750), Seattle ($1,557,500), Miami ($1.49 million) and the Los Angeles Angels ($1,315,000).

In San Diego, the Padres have given general manager A.J. Preller a three-year contract extension through the 2022 season.

Preller's original contract, signed when he was hired on Aug. 6, 2014, was to have run through 2019.

The extension was announced Sunday.

Preller is currently presiding over a deep rebuild of the Padres, who haven't been to the playoffs since 2006 and have had a losing record for seven straight years and nine of the last 10.

The Padres chose to go with a rebuild with young players after failing with a quick fix in 2015 with high-priced veterans.

In a statement, owners Ron Fowler and Peter Seidler said Preller "is a tireless worker who possesses one of the brightest minds in the game. We have no doubt that he is the right man to lead our baseball operations group into the future."

NMI's Terry making waves in HS football

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angel Terry, standing right, joins his Hudson's Bay High School Eagles teammates for a group photo after their game in the Class 3A Greater St. Helen's League in Vancouver City, Washington.

Former CNMI resident Angel Terry is making a significant impression while playing football for the Hudson's Bay High School Eagles in Vancouver City in Washington State.

Terry, in an article by the *Clark County Today*, was named the Big School Lineman of the Year of the Class 3A Greater St. Helens League. He previously lived on Saipan before moving to Vancouver City a few years ago and honing his football skills with the Eagles.

The senior earned a first-team and all-league spot as a defensive lineman in his debut with the Eagles in 2016 and helped the team to a 5-4 record for their first winning season in more than 14 years.

Terry, according to the article, was a huge part of the Eagles' resurgence as Hudson's Bay haven't had a winning season and failed to qualify to the playoffs for a decade. This year, they won six of their nine games to march into the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

His exploits both on the offensive and defensive line earned him a first-team and all-league to become the only lineman to earn the distinction.

Terry, in the same interview with *Clark Country Today*, got these accomplishments after making the necessary adjustments with his team and the league.

"I started pushing myself. I felt like if I dedicated myself to getting bigger and stronger, it would make me better for the upcoming year for football. I knew it's my last year, so I had to do the best I could," the 6'1", 295-lb Terry was quoted as saying in the article. *Saipan Tribune* contacted Terry to get his comments, but has yet to respond at press time.

His work ethic during practice and every game earned him praises from Eagles coach Ray Lions. "He wants to win every drill, every form of conditioning. He wants to win every rep in the weight room [and] every rep on the practice field. He works hard in everything he does. He has the talent and the work ethic, which is why he's getting the recognition. Would he ever toot his own horn? No," added Lions when asked by *Clark County Today.*

Terry, however, seems to be coy with the recognition. "I don't really like to boast. I feel if you [brag], the universe will put you down. It just feels nice to be part of something."

The Eagles, the past two years in the regular season, went 5-4 and 6-3. This year, they qualified to the playoffs and Terry attributed that feat to teamwork.

"Last year, I hadn't felt like I earned their trust. This year, I got to know all the players. We've been through a lot. We suffered together. We worked together," Terry told *Clark County Today*.

SBL eyes new season in early 2018

The Saipan Baseball League is encouraging interested teams to start their preparation for the 2018 season, which SBL plans to open either by late January or early February.

SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is urging teams and players to begin securing their respective uniforms and other equipment.

"Team sponsorship have to be secured, team attire and game equipment and other team necessities are also required, and must be purchased prior to opening day," said Rogolifoi.

Waivers and other forms are available at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while a meeting will be scheduled next month. Managers, coaches, and players are advised to wait for additional announcements.

Meanwhile, the SBL is trying to finish the Masters and Under 25 leagues this month or before the year ends.

To meet its target, the SBL has started having the Masters league play two games with a two-hour time limit a few weeks ago, The league also plans to add a Saturday schedule to make sure the season will be completed before the Saipan Little League opens its competition.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672 or 285-3966. ***(Jon Perez)***

MATANSA

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lift Matansa to the easy victory. Amzad Khan added a pair, while Jacob Montes-Sabino chipped in one.

With multiple Matansa players on target, the top-ranked squad opened a 6-1 halftime advantage. Mita hit the board first with his shot in the 10th minute, while Khan added one more just a minute later. Montes-Sabino then handed Matansa its third goal in the 39th minute, while the squad's last three were made in a span of three minutes with Mita finding the back of the net anew in the 42nd and Duenas scoring back-to-back (43rd and 44th). The WNT's lone goal in the first half came from Irish Pagarao.

Then with only two minutes gone by in the second half, Amzad knocked in one more goal, while Mita and Duenas delivered the final two for Matansa in the 74th and 80th minute, respectively. The WNT had another one-goal performance in the second half, courtesy of Sarah Allen's conversion in the 57th minute.

In the other semis game, Jun Woon Lee registered the winning goal for KFAS in extra time (100th minute) to eliminate the hard-fighting Shirley's. Chong Koo Lee and Edwin Kim were the other scorers for KFAS, while three different players also made it to the board for Shirley's.

Dindo Pablo broke the ice for Shirley's in the 30th minute and their squad went on to establish a 2-0 halftime edge, thanks to Sungbae Park's goal in the 43rd.

However, Shirley's failed to hang on to the lead, as KFAS mounted a comeback in the second half with Gil breaking the latter's silence in the 59th minute to move his team within one. Then two straight goals from Kim—in the 68th and 76th minute—put KFAS on top before Shirley's forced the second deadlock in the 86th minute off Jerry Tan's shot.

With the game still tied at the end of regulation (90th minute), game officials gave the opposing teams 15 minutes to settle the match and KFAS went on to complete the come-from-behind win off Jun Lee's dagger.

KFAS will dispute the Division B championship against Matansa this Sunday.

Meanwhile, in Division A, Kanoa FC took the third semis seat following a 3-0 victory over Paire FC.

Ruselle Zapanta, Ichiro Borja, and Andruw Omelau delivered the goods for Kanoa with the former starting things out for the winning squad after both teams failed to score in the first half. Zapanta lit up the board in the 58th minute, while Borja followed suit in the 66th and Omelau closed out for Kanoa 10 minutes later.

With the shutout win, Kanoa joins TanHoldings and the Teen Ayuyus to the Final Four. Okadaya and Sun Palace battled for the fourth and last semis berth, but the winner of last Sunday's game has yet to be decided due to technical issues.

DUNLOP

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the TanHoldings Tennis Classic were Roy Banados and George Poquiz, Chie Sato and Ken Imaya, and Donn Dunlop and Nicky Nichols.

Dunlop and Nichols also took three sets to get the men's doubles 60-and-above championship. They won the first set of their title duel against David Lai and Eddie Wu, 6-4, while the latter pair recovered in the second, 6-3. In the super-tiebreaker third set, Dunlop and Nichols proved to be steadier in the homestretch after posting a 10-5 victory.

The No. 1 seed Dunlop and Nicholas made it to the finals following a 4-2, 4-1 victory over Nonoy Masinda and Bert Ventura, while Wu and David Lai gained the other finals ticket after sweeping Toshio Matsumura and Gary Ramsey, 6-2, 6-3.

In the men's 50-and-above doubles, the winners were decided after three sets, too. The No. 2 seed Banados and Poquiz dropped the opening set of their finals duel against No. 1 Nichols and Joe Quitugua, 4-6, but remained in contention after bouncing back in the second in similar scores. Banados and Poquiz went on to complete their upset over their higher-seeded foes after earning a 10-6 victory in the super-tiebreaker third set.

The eventual champions also took the long route to the finals after slipping past Alexander Martin and Buboy Sergio in the semis, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Nichols and Quitugua had the same tough win, outclassing Art Lopez and Diony Peralta, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 10-8.

In the mixed doubles 4.0, Sato and Imaya prevailed in the finals showdown between the Top 2 seeds in the division.

The No. 2 seed Imaya and Sato swept No. 2 Tan and Sam Lai in the finals, 6-1, 6-3. Sam and Tan earlier eked out a 3-6, 6-3, 10-7 victory over Otobe Mizuyo and Don Castillo in the semis to barge into the title game against Sato and Imaya—a 6-0, 6-1 winner over the Marivic and Nichols in the other Final Four pairing. Nichols and Marivic barged into the semis following a 3-6, 6-4, 12-10 triumph versus Santos and Lacbayo, while Mizuyo and Castillo completed the Final Four cast after eliminating Tisha Ferrer and Noel Biglete, 6-3, 6-3.

DNF

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Halliday (2009) of Australia, and Guam's Susan Seay (2007) by having her name inscribed on HOM's perpetual trophy.

Nakahara's much-awaited battle with two-time Olympian Jamie Wong fizzled out after the Hong Kong bet failed to finish the 115-kilometer race due to mechanical problems on her bike and a flat tire.

Nakahara also had her misfortunes early in the race, as she crashed with four other cyclists around the 30K mark of the course when she was heading out of the Bird Island Lookout-Grotto turnaround.

"I did not notice that there was someone in front of me. I could not avoid him, it was too late, and four of us crashed. I was focused and concentrating with my ride that's why I failed to notice the rider," said Nakahara minutes after crossing the finish line.

Nakahara, who was surprised to learn that Olympian Wong also joined last weekend's event, suffered a huge cut on her right arm, and other bruises to her knees and feet. After the early crash, she even thought of dropping out of the race, but had a change of heart.

"I didn't. I just got on my bike and restarted," the Japanese said.

Nakahara, who rides for Maaslandster International Women's Cycling Team of The Netherlands in the 2018 season of the European Tour, said the course layout and the extra 15K really pushed her.

"It was a hard and challenging course. It was also a little bit slippery. There are portions where you're going to make climbs and you must also learn to control while going downhill. This is a good course for those who want to challenge themselves," she added.

Hong Kong's Chau Yu Ng stepped in for Wong, but could not catch Nakahara and settled for second place with a time of 4:32:50, while Sang Mi Oh of South Korea was a far third at 5:36:37.

The other female finishers were in the age group of the road bike and MTB divisions, Guam's Kristian Ingvarsson (40-44) clocked in at 4:15:12 followed by Tsang Hiu Tung of Hong Kong (20-29) with a time of 4:29:20, and South Korean Myung Sook Lee (55-59), who reached the finish line in 4:48:05.

Hong Kong's Jcy Ho topped the 30-39 age group (4:48:30) ahead of Saipan's Ayano Braxton (5:16:52). Local bet Emily Northrop was second to Tung in the 20-29 age division with a time of 5:14:55. Kimiko McKagan competed in the road bike and conquered the course in 5:26:22, while Glorybel Tan was in the MTB's 40-44 division and completed the race in 5:59:25.

Paire FC at 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend

PHOTOS By GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A Paire FC player is left free to kick the ball.

Two Paire FC defenders keep a close eye on a Quality Distributor player.

A Paire Football Club U15 player uses her right foot to stop the ball during their game against Quality Distributor in last month's 2017 GFA Fall Gobblefest Weekend in Guam.

Paire FC's Miles River, center, plays tight defense against a Quality Distributor player.

Paire FC's Anisa Villagomez, right, tries to sneak in and steal the ball from a Quality Distributor player.

Paire FC's Erin Frink, right, battles a Quality Distributor player for the ball.

A Paire FC player chases the ball.

A Paire FC defender, fourth left, blocks a kick from a Quality Distributor player.

Masterful Wilson leads Seahawks past Eagles

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Sports

Westbrook makes triple-double in win over Spurs

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Matansa, KFAS set finals duel

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Women's National Team's Irish Pagarao, left, and Hamid Kawsar ward each other off as they fight for possession during the second half of their semis game in the Division B of the M-League last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club and Korean Football Association on Saipan arranged their title showdown in the Division B of the M-League after earning contrasting semis wins last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

In the first semis match, KFAS outlasted Shirley's FC, 4-3, while in the second Final Four pairing, the unbeaten Matansa dominated the CNMI Women's National Team, 9-2.

Daniel Jay Duenas and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita scored three goals apiece to

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Dunlop couple survives Tan, Lai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The husband-and-wife tandem of Donn and Marivic Dunlop needed three sets to put away Lydia Tan and David Lai and win the mixed doubles 50-and above championship in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

The No. 2 seed pair prevailed in the opening set, 6-3, but the unranked Tan and Lai refused to give up early and eked out a 6-4 victory to bring the title match to a deciding super-tiebreaker third set. In the extended set, the Dunlops regained their bearings and posted a 10-6 triumph to clinch the division title and avoid the upset axe of Tan and Lai.

Before facing Marivic and Donn, Tan and David Lai first stunned the No. 1 seed duo of George Lai and Sally Lee in the semis of the upper half of the draw, 6-4, 6-2. Earlier in the opening round, Tan and David Lai also won over Cleofe Santos and Kam Wah Kwan, 6-1, 4-3 (retired).

At the lower half of the draw, the Dunlops drew a bye in the opening round and then topped Karen Ramsey and Landon Nadler in the semis, 6-1, 6-1, to advance to the finals.

Meanwhile, other doubles winners in the final week of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marivic Dunlop makes a return during her and husband Donn's semis game against Karen Ramsey and Landon Nadler in the mixed doubles 50-and-above division of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

JON PEREZ
Yasue Nakahara pumps her fist after crossing the finish line first in the women's division of last Saturday's 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race.

Japanese wins women's crown; HK Olympian DNF

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Japan's Yasue Nakahara overcame the Saipan heat and an early crash to rule the women's pro/elite division of the 11th Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race held last last Saturday.

The 31-year-old, a native of Higashihiroshima City in Hiroshima Prefecture, came in 18th overall and was the 17th pro to finish the race that started and ended at the Mariana Report & Spa. Nakahara's winning time was 4:01:51 as she joined the ranks of five-time champion Mieko Carey of Guam (2008, 2010, 2014-16), three-peat titlist Jodie Willett (2011-13) and Amber

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